



# Win Awenen Nisitotung

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

## MMO goes to New Boston delivering care

**BY RHEANNA MCKECHNIE**  
Sault Tribe Health Division's Medical Mobile Office (MMO) hit the road bright and early April 22, leaving the St. Ignace Health Center with a team of dedicated and experienced providers to travel to the New Boston, Mich. area where they spent three days providing essential healthcare services such as direct patient care to tribal members.

The MMO and the team are equipped to provide a variety of services such as glucose testing and urinalysis, much like regular health centers but with the advantages of patient accessibility, convenience, and equitability.

Mobile units like the tribe's take away some of the critical barriers of entry that prevent patients from receiving that desperately needed care and this was no less true for our team members' visits. Patients who visited the unit could have traveled up to 5 hours one way to receive and utilize their care as a tribal member.

The New Boston patients, some of whom lived only a few minutes away, were overjoyed and appreciative by the opportunity to receive comprehensive and critical healthcare outside of a tribal health center, especially the opportunity to receive care from St. Ignace's Physician Supervisor Dr. Christine Hamilton (DO), and Jennifer Burton, CMA. Dr. Hamilton and Burton provided excellent care for patients for various issues, including if lab work was needed. Outside of the unit, St. Ignace's Denise Maxson was able to direct patients to the team's temporary base, the beautiful Sibley property. As the patient scheduler on hand, Maxson was also able to expertly

and crucially manage the patient schedule including registering and checking in old or completely new patients. Also, on the scene to keep everything running smoothly were St. Ignace's Clinic Manager Cheryl LaPlaunt RN MPA BSN and Sault Tribe's Project Specialist Rheanna McKechnie who had both handled much of the logistics behind the scenes leading up to the event and assisted with hotspots, guiding patients, and running the MMO—a massive customized RV designed to treat patients.

Patients who attended the New Boston visit were given voluntary surveys and all expressed interest in filling them out. There was a 100% satisfaction rate with the care provided, the service offered and the team providing the services. They commented on how excited they were about the visits even on the first day when the rain and wind picked up as Governing Director of Health Division Leo Chugunov MD helped the team to temporarily move the tables inside the Sibley Property's entrance to block out the chill.

From the moment they stepped foot onto the Sibley property, the patients expressed joy, interest, and a sense of eagerness at seeing Sault Tribe's Health Division team traveling to New Boston and were excited to hear the news that another trip was happening in mid-July!

For future appointments including the upcoming New Boston trip, members can call (906) 643-8689 to reach Denise Maxson and Kelly Perrault. The team is equipped to see a variety of patients at all stages of life from infants to elders and would be excited to see you soon at the wonderful Sibley property.

## First Lady, Second Gentleman visit Sault Tribe dignitaries



Photo by Jennifer Dale-Burton

**First Lady Jill Biden and Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff met with leaders of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and Bay Mills Indian Community May 20 and 21 as part of Biden's and Emhoff's trip through Michigan. Tribal leaders and the first lady and second gentleman discussed tribal health concerns. It was acknowledged that President Biden has been at work improving IHS and tribal health funding, but the tribe's are still funded far short of their needs. Above, Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes, First Lady Jill Biden, Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff and Bay Mills President Whitney Gravelle hold a health roundtable May 21 to a full house of Sault Tribe Health staff and tribal officials. The tribe's Traditional Practitioner Gerard Sagassige gave the invocation. The first lady and second gentleman visited Bay Mills Community College the day before and toured the Soo Locks after the roundtable.**

## Tribe announces two year health care revitalization plan

**SAULT STE. MARIE —** After working to analyze the health care needs of the community over the past several months, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians is announcing that it will implement a two-year revitalization plan for the tribe's health system.

"As one of the largest health systems in Indian Country and among the largest in the Upper Peninsula, we recognize the continuous need to reevaluate and reassess the quality of care and services that our Health Division brings to tribal members. We are confident that implementing this plan will help make our community healthier and stronger," said Sault Tribe Chairman Austin Lowes.

Lowes noted that the tribe spent the first several months of this year holding town hall discussions and meeting with Health Division staff throughout its service area to gather feedback on how to better align community needs with the health services it provides. Those insights will be combined with national best practices to develop and implement the Health Care Revitalization



Plan, including: Providing better access to care by increasing appointment availabilities and telehealth services; Upgrading equipment throughout the tribe's various health centers; Aligning services to better meet local community needs; Updating electronic medical record systems to increase efficiency and service coordination; and improving internal operations structures that will position the Sault Health Division as the employer of choice for the region, such as: Increasing provider recruitment and retention efforts; Enhancing leadership development and support; Improving staff development and training opportunities; and ensuring market rate pay for Health Division staff.

"As a former medical social worker, I have a great apprecia-

tion for our Health Division staff and the important role they play in supporting a vibrant and prosperous community. I very much look forward to working with them to ensure this plan is a success," said Lowes. "Together, we will build a healthier future for our tribe."

The Sault Tribe Health Division is focused on providing high quality patient-centered health care that is responsive, courteous, and sensitive to individual, family, community and cultural needs with an emphasis on disease prevention and health promotion. The tribe operates nine health centers across the Upper Peninsula, including Detour, Gladstone, Grand Island, Hessel, Manistique, Marquette, Newberry, Sault Ste. Marie and St. Ignace.

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# Lodge of Hope receives Easter gifts for children



From Juanita Bye-ACFS Division Director Chi miigwech to Unit I Board of Director Isaac McKechnie and his family and friends for providing the children at the Lodge of Hope with

## Sugar Island Powwow Golf Scramble

The Sugar Island Powwow Golf Scramble is being held June 15, with registration starting at 2 p.m. and tee off at 3 p.m.

This first annual event is being held at the Tanglewood Marsh Golf Course.

Four person teams - \$35 per person.

Kitchen and bar will be open to purchase food and refresh-

ments.

Top three teams receive prizes. Prizes for happy Gilmore hole and the longest putt. We will also have a 50/50 drawing and raffle items.

To volunteer, call (906) 203-7508. All proceeds will help fund the 2024 Sugar Island Powwow. We are a traditional powwow organized by volunteers and committee members.

# Sault Tribe Community Health Summer Hikes

Brought to you by the Medical Fitness Program. Come and let us guide you through one of our local trails.

**JUNE 5**

SSM Downtown lunch loop (1 mile) - Meet up on the corner of Pine and Nolte behind the hospital.

**JUNE 19**

Ashmun Creek Trail in SSM (1.2 miles) - Meet up behind Buffalo Wild Wings Restaurant.

**JULY 3**

Big Bear Trail in SSM (1.4 miles) - Meet up at the Big Bear Arena parking lot next to the playground.

**JULY 17**

Kinross Recreation Center Trail (1.2 miles) - Meet up at the Kinross Rec Center parking lot.

**JULY 31**

Round Island Trail in Brimley (1.2 miles) - Off of 6 Mile Rd. take E. Birch Point Loop then a right on West Winding Ridge. Parking is at the end of the road.

**AUG 14**

Algonquin Trail in SSM (approx. 2 miles) - Parking is off of West 16th Ave., just past Tanglewood golf course.

**AUG 28**

Lynn Trail in SSM (approx. 1 mile) - Parking is at Sault Seal Recreation Center at the end of Minneapolis Park Drive.

Call Sault Tribe Community Health at 906-632-5210 to register.

Please arrive 10 mins early, all hikes begin at 2pm.

Weather permitting, will cancel due to rain/storms.

Reminder calls will be made 2 days prior to scheduled date.

# You know you're from MICHIGAN when ...

## You fill out the FAFSA to see if your '24 grad qualifies for up to \$27,500 in scholarships!

From the Mitten to the U.P., the Class of 2024 is getting a helping hand paying tuition at eligible tribal colleges, community colleges and public or private universities. 7 out of 10 Michigan high school seniors may qualify for the Michigan Achievement Scholarship, no matter their GPA. Don't miss out! Fill out the simplified FAFSA. It's only 36 questions and could be worth thousands!

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# Committee vacancies — volunteers needed!

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

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

**Child Welfare Committee** - Two vacancies (4-year term); One vacancy - term expires November 2026

**Conservation Committee**  
Commercial Fishers - Two vacancies (4-year term)  
Non-Commercial Fishers - Three vacancies (4-year term)

**Health Advisory Board** - Two vacancies (4-year term); One vacancy - term expires April 2027

**Housing Commission/Utility Authority** - Two vacancies - One

for Unit 3 and One for Unit 1 (4-year term)

**Special Needs/Enrollment Committee** - (2-year term)

Unit I - Two vacancies  
Unit II - Two vacancies  
Unit III - Two vacancies  
Unit IV - One vacancy

**Elder Advisory Committee**  
Unit I - Sault - One alternate vacancy (4-year term)

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

Unit II - Naubinway - One

regular vacancy (4-year term)

Unit III - St. Ignace - One regular vacancy, two alternate vacancies (4-year term)

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

**Elder Subcommittees**

Unit I - Sault - One alternate vacancy (4-year term)

Unit IV - Escanaba - Two regular vacancies, one alternate vacancy (4-year term)

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

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

**Food Sovereignty Committee** - Two vacancies - one expiring Feb. 2025, one expiring Feb. 2027

**Wequayoc Cemetery Committee** - Five vacancies. Only Sault Tribe members who have a family member buried in this cemetery are eligible for membership on this committee (4-year term)

## Thank you Holly Kibble!

The Unit II Naubinway elders would like to express their thanks and gratitude to Holly Kibble for all her hard work in getting our unit up and running all those

years ago as well as her continued guiding hand in all tribal matters. We wish her the best in her retirement, may it be long and happy!

## Tribal gas and cigarette discount locations

The following gas stations are offering the discount to Sault Tribe members.

**Tribal owned gas stations offering gas and cigarette discounts:**

- MidJim Convenience Store, 2205 Shunk Road, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

- MidJim Convenience Store, 3045 Mackinac Trail, St. Ignace, MI 49781

- White Pine Lodge and Convenience Store, 7889 E. W. M-28, Christmas, MI 49862

**Tribal owned gas station offering gas discount only:**

- University BP, 301 W. Fair Ave., Marquette, MI 49855

**Not tribal owned stations that are offering gas discounts only:**

- Kinross BP, 4440 Tone Road, Kincheloe, MI 49788

- Cedar Pantry, 159 W M-134, Cedarville, MI 49719

- Sunoco, 13975 M-28, Newberry, MI 49868

- Manistique Oil Company, 216 Deer Street, Manistique, MI 49854

- Carnes Eco Fuels, 2300 Ludington Street, Escanaba, MI 49837

## Welcome, new subscribers!

Welcome to all our new tribal member subscribers! We would like you to know that you have become part of our community newspaper. You are welcome to send in your news, such as obituaries, births, graduations and other accomplishments. Send in your news to Editor Jennifer Dale-Burton at [jdale-burton@saulttribe.net](mailto:jdale-burton@saulttribe.net). (Read details below on our banner.) If you have any questions, feel free to email or call (906) 632-6398.

We also have an official Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/saulttribe/> and an official website at [www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com).

## Cultural Beading Workshop June 14

Sault Tribe Community Health is holding a Cultural Beading Workshop on June 14, 2024, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Big Bear Hospitality Room, 2 Ice Circle, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

## Celebration of Life for Clyde Bonno

We would like to invite friends and family who knew and loved our dad, Clyde Bonno, to celebrate his life and share memories.

Join us on Saturday, July 13, from 2 to 6 p.m. at the Niigaanagizhik Ceremonial Building (Indian Cultural Building) located at 11 Ice Circle (Chu Mukwa) in Sault Ste. Marie.

If you would like bring a dish to share, please call his daughter Susan at (810) 335-1745. We hope to see you there!



## Enrollment Announcement

**Up to date addresses sought**  
Sault Tribe members whose addresses are not up to date have “bad addresses” with the tribe’s Enrollment Department.

Please check over the names on the list and if you see a friend or relative on the list let them know.

Go to the tribe’s website at

[saulttribe.com](http://saulttribe.com) and scroll down Membership Services to Tribal Enrollment. Then go to the Information column on the left side of the Enrollment page and select “Up to date addresses sought.”

Call (800) 251-6597 or email Stacey Synett at [ssynett@saulttribe.net](mailto:ssynett@saulttribe.net).

### 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!

## Win Awenen Nisitotung

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

May 29, 2024  
Flower 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

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

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

See our full, online edition at [www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com).

**Subscriptions:** \$18 per year, \$11 for senior citizens and \$30 to Canada. Call for other foreign countries.

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

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# Sault Tribe Police Officer plays integral part in daring rescue on Manistique's Indian Lake

By SCOTT BRAND

Officer Chris Hadfield of the Sault Tribe Police Department was awarded a Letter of Commendation on April 18 for his efforts in helping to rescue three people from the icy water of Indian Lake in February.

"I am writing to commend you for the exceptional bravery and quick thinking in rescuing individuals who had fallen through the ice," read the letter from Chief of Police Robert Marchand. "Your actions exemplify the highest standards of professionalism and heroism and they reflect great credit upon yourself and the Sault Tribe Police Department."

Hadfield said two teenage boys were snowmobiling across Indian Lake on Feb. 21, 2024. As ice conditions were considered poor, a neighbor was monitoring their progress with a telescope from shore when he saw them break through prompting the emergency call. Two other would-be rescuers attempted to assist, but would also break through the bad ice resulting in four people in the water by the time emergency responders donned their ice rescue suits.

"It's kind of like a puffy suit," said Hadfield of the specialized water-tight gear. "When you jump into the water the air and foam give it floatation."

The first two snowmobilers

were in the water for a minimum of 35 minutes, according to Hadfield's estimate, while the would-be rescuers were only 10 minutes or so ahead of Hadfield and a sergeant from the Manistique City Police Department.

"We had to run a mile-and-a-half out onto the ice," explained Hadfield. "The city guy got there first because he has longer legs."

Working together, the two responding officers were able to extract three of the victims from waters estimated to be approximately 16 feet deep. The fourth individual's body, one of the teens who had been in the water for an extended period of time, was later recovered by a Michigan State Police Dive Team.

With the cold-water shock and hypothermia setting in, Hadfield said it was difficult trying to get the trio off the ice. The Schoolcraft County Sheriff Department responded with at least one snowmobile where the ice was safer transporting them up to shore where two ambulances were waiting. They were conveyed the local hospital where all three recovered within hours.

"Your response to the emergency situation was nothing short of extraordinary," wrote Chief Marchand in part. "Despite the inherent dangers and challenging conditions, you acted decisively



Courtesy of Amber Horner

Sault Tribal Police Chief Robert Marchand presents Officer James Hadfield with a Letter of Commendation.

and without hesitation to save lives. Your selflessness and courage undoubtedly made a significant difference in the outcome of this incident, and you have our deepest admiration and gratitude."

Marchand concluded his

letter with these words: "Thank you, Officer Hadfield, for your outstanding service and for upholding the highest ideals of law enforcement. Your bravery has undoubtedly saved lives and made a positive impact on our community."

Chris Hadfield was born and raised in Sault Ste. Marie and graduated from Lake Superior State University with a degree in law enforcement. He has been employed by the Sault Tribe Police Department for the past three-and-a-half years.

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# Tamarack Business Center hosts first official event

With more than \$400,000 available through the Small Business Support Hub Grant Program, there was ample interest on May 6 as dozens of entrepreneurs gathered for the soft opening of the new Tamarack Business Center.

“This is a resource for our community,” said Director of Business Development Paul Guindon of Sault Tribe Thrive welcoming the crowd to the recently renovated office for the event.

Executive Director Tammy Henry of the Luce County Economic Development Corporation led the bulk of the presentation in her capacity as the small business support hub grant manager explaining that Eastern Upper Peninsula businesses,

impacted by COVID-19, are eligible for up to \$20,000 in grant money. The funds can be used for training, equipment, inventory, marketing, licensing fees and certifications. Software and hardware upgrades can also be funded through this grant.

To learn more about this program or to apply online visit [www.headwatersnorth.org](http://www.headwatersnorth.org).

Business Consultant Mariah Goos of the Michigan Small Business Development Center (MSBDC) added that her organization is also available with no cost services.

“We don’t do taxes and we don’t do legal,” said Goos adding that the MSBDC is able to assist in virtually all other capacities including marketing research, financial planning, loan packag-



Sault Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes and a host of others at the ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 6.

ing and strategic planning.

The final presenter, Taryn Sulkes of Eagle Specialties, LLC invited those in attendance to the

upcoming Sault Tribe Business Alliance Business Conference on July 2 at Kewadin Casino.

“Our theme this year is ‘Buy

Native,’” she said promising a keynote speaker, business panels and a “Pitch Your Business,” promotion at this year’s event.

Photos by Scott Brand

Left, Les Cheneaux Area Chamber of Commerce President Teresa Carmichael holds the ribbon as she officially welcomes Gchi Waijiwan Mukwa, Bear on the Mountain Golf Course in Hessel to the community in front of the newly-erected sign. The course is named after John Causley who had the honor of cutting the ribbon while flanked by Sault Tribe board members, Bear on the Mountain staff and tribal elders on May 16.



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- ◆ Stress the development of extensive short and long term planning for Tribal Business and Services that includes the input of the Membership
- ◆ Continue to Stress Business Diversification and Economic Development to provide new revenue streams that are necessary to maintain and increase membership services
- ◆ Push legislation to ensure that ALL Tribal Members are afforded their Constitutional Rights
- ◆ Work with the Tribal Board to establish a Code of Conduct to ensure professionalism, job security, accountability for Elected Officials and take the Board out of daily operations
- ◆ Defend and Protect our Sovereignty and Treaty Rights
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- ◆ Continue to advocate for a continued separation of powers: Constitutional Amendments to allow for Term Limits, Special Initiatives, Rights of Recall, Independent Court with Elected Judges

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# Anishinaabemowin 2024

One day or day one. You decide! (*Our hope: Choose our people's language today!*)

## Nendam-daa! Let's vote!

The "daa" at the end says "let's!"

**The "nendam" part says he or she is voting.** It can also be used to say that a person is thinking or feeling a certain way about something — having an opinion. And it can be used to say that person is making up their mind about something, or maybe deciding what to do.

N'gii nendam zhaazhi. I voted already.  
 Wii nendam. That person will decide.  
 Pat wii nendam. Pat will decide.  
 N'da nendam. I am making up my mind.  
 G'wii nendam na? Will you vote?  
 G'da nendam na? Do you have an opinion?  
 G'nendaami nangwa. **We** are voting today.

**Language Insights:** To show something happened in the past we use the little word "gii." To show future we can use "wii." And if something is going on presently we can use "da" OR just not mention gii or wii.

The **N** and **G** before those time markers say "I" and "**You**" respectively. If there's no N or G, assume he or she is doing the action. Really, we don't even SAY he or she in Anishinaabemowin. We say "that person" or we use the person's name.

Finally, if we put the little word "na" in a sentence, we make the comment into a question whose answer will be "yes" or "no."

Here's another useful way to use "nendam."

**Aaniish gegii e-nendaman?** What do you think?

We can consider what other people are thinking (and why), before we make up our own minds.

**"Nendam" has limits!** It's the kind of verb/action word that only says **someone is doing something**. It can't tell you either **WHAT** they're doing or **IF** they're doing it to someone else or to something.

So knowing that, look again at the example sentences using 'nendam' above. Yup! Limited.

**We're lucky to have another verb that is similar in meaning and does let us talk about the being or thing that is getting acted on!**

It will say someone chooses it (something alive) OR will say someone chooses it (something not alive).

Here are the two forms of that verb we can use:

N'**wenaabmaa** mishiimin. I **choose** an apple.

(Apples are considered to be alive) G'**wenaamdaan** demin pane.

You always **choose** a strawberry.

(Strawberries are not considered to be alive)

**It is SOOOOOO Typical in our language to have different forms for what is alive and what's not. It's a cool feature! Ya gotta love it!**



## Demin Giizis Strawberry Moon

by Susan Askwith

**PUZZLE TIME!** Use the examples, hints and insights on this page *and* your delightful mind, to translate the following comments and questions into English! The answers are in the box below, just in case.

- G'wii wenaabmaa na taadwin?  
(taadwin=a card) \_\_\_\_\_
- N'da wenaabmaa wa bkwezghigaans!  
(wa bksezghigaans=that cookie)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Sarah gii wenaabmaa maaba mazinchigan.  
(maaba mazinchigan=this photo)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- N'gii wenaamdaan wi wiikwaan.  
(wi wiikwaan=that hat)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Wii wenaamdaan na makade-aaboo nangwa?  
(makade-aaboo nangwa=coffee today)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Sally wenaamdaan shki mijimenjigaans.  
(shki mijimenjigaans=a new laptop)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Sam wii nendam na nangwa?  
(nangwa=today) \_\_\_\_\_
- Sally gii wenaabmaa na maaba naabkawaagan?  
(maaba naabkawaagan=this necklace)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Gii wenaamdaan maanda nokaazwin.  
(maanda nokaazwin=this tool)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Sam ge'nii, n'nendaami nangwa.  
(ge'nii=and I) \_\_\_\_\_

**Use the verb forms** in the sentences here to help you **decide** which of these things are **not alive**. Circle them!

**Bkwezghigaans**

**Mishiimin**

**Demin**

**Naabkawaagan**

**Makade-aaboo**

**Nokaazwin**

**Mazinchigan**

**Taadwin**

**Mijimenjigaans**

**Wiikwaan**

1. Will you choose a card? 2. I am choosing that cookie! 3. Sarah chose this photo. 4. I chose that hat. 5. Will that person choose coffee today? 6. Sally is choosing a new laptop. 7. Will Sam vote today? 8. Did Sally choose a this necklace? 9. That person chose this tool. 10. Sam and I, we are voting today.

**Pronunciation??** You'll find the Anishinaabemowin words used here as well as those in the calendar, pronounced at our FaceBook link:

[www.facebook.com/SaultTribeLanguageAndCulture](http://www.facebook.com/SaultTribeLanguageAndCulture).

← You can also use the guide shown here!

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

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

**ii** sounds like the e in *be* **i** sounds like the i in *dip*

**oo** sounds like the o in *go* **o** sounds like the oo's in *book*

**e** sounds like the e in *Ed* **g** sounds only like it does in *go*

We underlined the syllables that get the emphasis.

Pronounce all the letters. Big deal: 'nh' in a word has no sound!

It's only a sign to say the previous vowel nasally - as if you have a stuffed-up nose!

# Unofficial winners of Primary Election to go on to General Election

Experience seemed to be an important factor to Sault Tribe voters as all of the incumbents cruised through the May Primary into June's General Election.

In the race for Tribal Chairman, incumbent Austin Lowes garnered 3,811 votes. DJ Hoffman, with 1,875 votes came in second winning the right to move on into the General Election while Lorrie Jump came up short with 1,555 votes and was eliminated in the primary.

Of the 10 candidates in **Unit I**, only six could move on into June's General Election.

Former tribal chairman and director Aaron Payment led the field with 1,326 votes followed by incumbents Betty Freiheit at 1,239 votes and Mike McKerchie tallying 1,043.

Former directors Kim Gravelle and Michael Lumsden also punched their tickets into the General Election with 937 and 759 votes, respectively.

The sixth candidate to earn a slot in the general election was Joanne Pavlat-Carr coming in with 802 votes.

Unit I candidates who fell short in the primary include Chloe Kannan at 690 votes, Lorrie Jump, 585 votes, Mary McLean with 403 votes and Frederick Carr III, at 346 votes.

In **Unit II**, Lana Causley-

Smith, incumbent, ran away from her competition in the Primary posting 532 votes. Dean Hyslop Sr. moved on into the General Election with 105 votes.

Monica Cady was eliminated from consideration in the general election mustering 81 votes from Unit II voters in the Primary.

In **Unit III**, Bridgett Sorenson, the incumbent, likewise moved on into the General Election with 845 votes in the Primary and will face John Rickley with 442 votes in the General Election.

Todd Preseau III was knocked out of June's General Election coming in with 139 votes.

In **Unit IV**, there were only

two candidates vying for a single position so incumbent Darcy Morrow and candidate Larry Barbeau had a clear path setting the stage for the General Election.

There were no seats up for grabs in **Unit V**, during this election cycle so voters in this region were limited only to the chairman's race.

The May 23 Primary closes the first phase of the 2024 election cycle. The posted results are unofficial until approved by the Election Commission.

Once approved by the Election Commission, new ballots will be prepared with the successful candidates included

in preparation for mailing on June 6, according to the established timetable for this year's election.

Voters will have three weeks to consider their choices before the June 27 deadline

where the final count will be conducted to determine the winners.

There are three seats up for grabs in Unit I, while the chairman's post and positions in Unit II, III and IV will go to the person with the most votes.

**Be sure to Join us!**

T-shirts are available for sale at our Main Office  
SMALL-XL \$15.00  
2XL-4XL \$18.00

**13th ANNUAL BURGER BASH**

**JUNE 12 24**

**4:30PM - 7:00PM**

511 BINGHAM AVE | SAULT STE. MARIE

COST IS BY DONATION

**BE PART OF SOMETHING BIG!**

**All proceeds to benefit Road to Recovery**

**SAULT TRIBE TRADITIONAL MEDICINE PROGRAM**

## 2024 June Healer's Clinic Hours

### Gerard Sagassige

**June 4,10,11,17,18**  
Sault Ste. Marie Health Center  
(906)632-0236

**Wednesday, June 5th**  
St. Ignace Health Center  
(906)643-8689 or (877)256-0135

**Wednesday, June 12th**  
Manistique Health Center  
(906)341-8469 or (866) 401-0043

**Wednesday, June 19th**  
Hessel Community Center  
(906)484-2727

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

## ODEMIN GIIZIS (STRAWBERRY MOON) - JUNE 2024

SUNDAY (the 7th day)	MONDAY (the 1st day)	TUESDAY (the 2nd day)	WEDNESDAY (the 3rd day)	THURSDAY (the 4th day)	FRIDAY (the 5th day)	SATURDAY (the 6th day)
<b>NIIZHWAASO GIIZHIGAD</b> 	<b>NTAM GIIZHIGAD</b> 	<b>NIIZHO GIIZHIGAD</b> 	<b>NSWO GIIZHIGAD</b> 	<b>NIIWO GIIZHIGAD</b> 	<b>NAANO GIIZHIGAD</b> 	<b>NGODWAASWO GIIZHIGAD</b>  1 mbaasjigan (airplane)
<b>2</b>  makazinan (shoes)	<b>3</b>  daabaan (vehicle)	<b>4</b>  wiigwaam daabaan (camper/RV)	<b>5</b>  N'wii oo baamase. (I want to go walking.)	<b>6</b>  wiiba (early; soon)	<b>7</b>  Biginoshin (Call me on the phone)	<b>8</b>  biimskowebshkigan (bicycle)
<b>9</b>  eshkiniigijig (young people)	<b>10</b>  de'minan (strawberries)	<b>11</b>  bagwan (shirt)	<b>12</b>  bmaadizijig (people)	<b>13</b>  wiikwaan (hat)	<b>14</b>  kinoomaadiigamig (the institution of school)	<b>15</b>  Giizhigaate. (It is a bright, sunny day.)
<b>16</b>  Noos Giizhigad (Father's Day)	<b>17</b>  Gebeying giizhigad. (It is a long day.)	<b>18</b>  giizhkinatagoonh (cut off - shorts)	<b>19</b>  maajibiigan mkak (mail box)	<b>20</b>  Ntam Niibin (First day of summer)	<b>21</b>  Mooshkaneshin Dibiki Giizis. (It is a full moon.)	<b>22</b>  biijbiigan (a written letter)
<b>23</b>  mkade ojiinhsag (black flies)	<b>24</b>  giizis shkiizhigokaajiganan (sunglasses)	<b>25</b>  binoojiinhyag (children)	<b>26</b>  N'ga bmbitoo. (I'm going running.)	<b>27</b>  N'wii bshkozhige. (I will cut the grass/mow the lawn.)	<b>28</b>  nimkii dikman (moth)	<b>29</b>  bshkwashagan (lawnmower)

# Bouschor accepts environmental program manager position after beginning her career there in 2014

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Robin Bouschor's history with the Sault Tribe Environmental Program began in June 2014 when she spent a year there as a student intern where she helped organize and implement a water study on Sugar Island; gathered information on Sugar Island residents' source of drinking water and produced an ArcGIS map of the location of homes that obtain their water from the St. Mary's River and participated in various other projects.

From March through May 2016 Bouschor worked for the Environmental Program as an independent contractor and in July 2017 accepted the full-time position of environmental specialist.

Her list of accomplishments are varied and impressive and include: Managing an ongoing Indoor Air Quality Assessment Program for tribal members under an EPA approved quality assurance project plan; drafted an application for Treatment as a State under the Clean Air Act; utilized Arc GIS to develop maps; developed and continue to implement an air quality educational program for the Sault Tribe community; implemented a woodstove assessment project to determine the number of tribal homes using outdated stoves; helped organize and lead an annual Youth Environmental Camp and collaborated with Lake Superior State University and the EPA to develop methodology on conducting a trace metal depositional study and established the Tribes National Atmospheric Deposition Program under the National Trends Network.

She currently serves as a voting member on the National Tribal Air Monitoring Steering Committee.

Bouschor said she has a deep passion for the environment and her work allows her to nurture that passion. "It excites me to contribute, even in a small way, to protecting our people and nonhuman relatives," she said.

In her new position as the program manager she will be managing tribal air quality, surface water quality, drinking water quality, brownfields, and aquatic invasive species programs. She will also be assisting with drafting comment letters to advocate for environmental rights at both the state and federal levels. Her responsibilities include managing various federal grants and seeking additional funding sources to expand programs and build capacity to undertake additional environmental initiatives. She currently supervises five positions and summer interns.

One of the many projects she and her team are working on is analyzing the amount of PFAS deposited on tribal lands through precipitation. The Environmental Program was awarded three years of

**In her new position, Bouschor will be managing tribal air quality, surface water quality, drinking water quality, brownfields, and aquatic invasive species programs.**

funding for the studies. "We are also collaborating with Lake Superior State University (LSSU) on a parallel study to examine certain heavy metals being deposited from potential sources, such as the steel mill across the river in Sault Ste Marie," she said.

Bouschor graduated in 2017 from LSSU with a degree in geology and will be graduating in August 2024 from Central Michigan State University with a master's degree in research administration.

She said having a degree in geology provides a strong foundation for understanding the Earth's processes, which is essential for addressing environmental challenges related to

air quality, water quality, and brownfield sites. "My educational background taught me about geological processes, including how rocks, minerals, and soils interact with water and air.

I was trained to assess and characterize geological sites, which is crucial for evaluating environmental contamination, identifying sources of pollution, and understanding how pollutants may migrate through the environment (such as through groundwater or air pathways).

In school, I learned to interpret geological data and communicate findings to my peers and professors, skills that I have successfully applied to my career."



Robin Bouschor is the new program manager for the Sault Tribe Environmental Program.

# RE-ELECT

## AUSTIN LOWES

### SAULT TRIBE CHAIRMAN

#### ACCOMPLISHMENTS WHILE CHAIRMAN:

- 15% INCREASE IN LAND BASE
- KEWADIN CASINO RENOVATION PROJECT
- SETTLED JLLJ (JERRY CAMPBELL) LAWSUIT
- APPEALED CONSENT DECREE
- ESTABLISHED FOOD SOVEREIGNTY COMMITTEE

#### GOALS MOVING FORWARD:

- LANDBACK
- INCREASE WAGES
- IMPROVE ELDER SERVICES
- EXPAND TRIBAL HOUSING
- THREE BRANCH GOVERNMENT
- DIVERSIFY BUSINESSES
- IMPROVE HEALTHCARE SERVICES



Ad endorsed by Austin Lowes

# Sault Tribe Law Enforcement and Conservation

BY ROBERT MARCHAND, CHIEF OF POLICE

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

**Inland Hunting and Fishing**  
STLE would like to remind any members who held a 2023 Inland license that harvest reports were due back Feb. 1, 2024.

These reports are required regardless of whether you caught any fish or game, or whether you engaged in any activity. Members will not be able to obtain a 2024 license until this report is received. If you are requesting this license for the first time, you are required to provide a copy of your tribal card along with proof of hunter safety if you want to engage in treaty hunting rights.

STLE office staff began issuing 2024 Inland licenses on March 1. PLEASE NOTE THERE IS A PRICE INCREASE. The cost to get your license is now \$0. Please remember that if you are using this license for fishing purposes, you are only authorized to fish inland lakes and streams within the boundaries of the 1836 Treaty Area. There are some exceptions on specific bodies of water that you can find more information about in the

Tribal Code.

Bear and Elk applications are due in our office by May 31, at 5 p.m. It does not matter if your envelope is dated May 31, it MUST be in our office on time. It is our hope to get bear tags out to the winners in time for baiting, which starts July 1. You MUST have your 2024 Hunting Harvest Card in order to receive your bear tag.

Spring Turkey season is April 15 to June 15; two, bearded only.

Walleye Lower Peninsula season opened April 28; 10 per day, 14 inches.

Walleye Upper Peninsula season opens May 16; 10 per day, 14 inches.

Walleye Bay de Noc Tributaries' season opens May 16; 10 per day, 14 inches.

**Great Lakes Fishing – Subsistence/Netting and Commercial**

Commercial licenses – captains and helpers – require an appointment be made with STLE in order to renew each year. It is important that helpers and captains call to schedule their OWN appointments. STLE has to obtain specific personal information each year that only the member themselves can provide. Per the new CORA code, Captains are now required to report BI-WEEKLY, reports are due the second and fourth Wednesday of each month and no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern time, regardless of where you are commercial fishing. The report needs to be

submitted online with the new CORA website, [www.corafish.org](http://www.corafish.org). The dates in which you are required to report for are available on the new CORA reporting system. The new CORA code is available at [www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com) (Government-Tribal Code).

If you hold a subsistence license or subsistence netting licenses, please remember that you are required to turn in a monthly catch report by the 10th

of each month, regardless of effort or harvest. Please remember that these licenses are valid only on the Great Lakes within the boundaries of Sault Tribe's 1836 Treaty Area. Chapter 20 of the Tribal Code and CORA code regulate both subsistence licenses. As a reminder, you are authorized to recreationally fish in the Great Lakes within the boundaries of our 1836 Treaty Area with just your up-to-date

tribal membership card as long as you follow state of Michigan rules for the activity.

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

## Manistique tribal members graduate from Michigan State University

Submitted by Kim Hampton  
Sault Tribe members Kendra Cournaya, left, and Amanda Ziminski, right, both from Manistique, Mich., graduated from Michigan State University. Cournaya earned a bachelor of science in veterinary nursing with a concentration in animal science. She plans to continue her work in the MSU Veterinary Hospital's ER. She is the daughter of Michelle Cournaya-Buttermore of Manistique. Ziminski earned her medical doctorate and a certificate in rural medicine. She plans to continue training in pediatrics at the University of Michigan Mott Children's Hospital. She is the daughter of Jon and Cindy (Jensen) Ziminski of Manistique.





# BETTY

# Freiheit

Unit 1 ~ Sault Tribe Board of Directors

*Sault Ste. Marie, Sugar Island, Brimley, Dafter, Barbeau, Brimley, At Large & Everywhere In Between*

**Thank you for your Vote of Confidence in the Primary! One more step to our Shared Victory!**

Some forget where they come from. As long as we have Members in need, our work is not done and we can't rest. I've introduced countless resolutions to improve our Tribal Members' lives only to have these tabled by the *Old Board*. I fight hard for you at the Board table but, it is always to get things moving and always with the love for our Members. I need your vote in the General Election.

Let's send a strong message this election seeking an Active Board to move our Tribe forward one and for all!

I humbly ask for your Support and Vote, ~Betty Freiheit

**Replenish & Grow Elder Fund to Increase Dividend\$**  
As net revenues increase, we pledge pass a resolution to invest 10% into the Elder Fund and vote on this by referendum so it becomes mandatory.

**Unify Sault Tribe Membership (Inside & At Large)**  
The old Board including Mike McKerchie lied about not being able to share Cares Act Funds with Members living outside of the service area. We will push to ensure At Large Members are part of a long term strategic plan.

**Increase/Expand Benefits for ALL Sault Tribe Members**  
In addition to At Large Members, Kincheloe, Brimley & Sugar Island need to benefit too with program expansion for the Sault area. Read on for specifics.

**We Will "Work With" Chairman Lowes & the New Board**  
Real change began when Betty and Austin joined Aaron on the Board. Betty does not vote lock step with anyone and shares in disagreements. But, collaboration with the new Board Members is likely to improve our Tribe.

**Mentor & Share Knowledge & Skills with New Board**  
The experience of National level leadership is something to share. Aaron has pledged to coach new Board Members and will continue to support Betty and Austin's leadership to share the weight of this awesome responsibility.

**Attend ALL Conservation/ Treaty Fishing Meetings**

**Return Unit 1 Monthly Member Meetings/ Video Calls**  
When done right, these are enjoyable, increase communications and build community. Zoom will expand our reach to Unit 1 voters everywhere.

**Restore Positive National Tribal Reputation**  
The political coup excised on the Office of Chairperson was a national embarrassment. It made us look like a 3rd world *Banana Republic*. Let's return to national level leadership and show our resilience to overcome.

**Base MI Tuition Waiver on Enrollment Not 1/4 Blood**  
The State's use of blood quantum is discrimination. It is time once and for all to correct this and qualify 2/3 more of our Members for free college tuition.

**Increase Tribal Higher Ed & Vocational Funding**  
The \$1,000 amount was set 24 years ago and has not increased. This should increase to at least \$3,000 to give a hand up to our college students

**Push for National Level Tribal Health Insurance Card**  
As a national leader, Aaron was close to achieving this under the A.C.A. Given the treaty/ trust obligation, we deserve the same as VA Health Care. Portability. Cathy Abramson used to say, we "Pre-Paid" for our health care.

**Elder Mail Order Scripts & Medicare Supplements**  
This can be achieved by paying for Medicare supplements. Our pharmacy can, in turn, supply these meds and ship them to Tribal members starting with Elders then expanding to include all Tribal Members Everywhere.

**Tribal, Inter-Tribal & National Fight against Opiate Crisis**  
This is an epidemic. Aaron is a national level leader here and if returned to office he will play a direct role here once again. It is a matter of life and death. Our members who are afflicted, deserve our compassion and care and not judgement. There for the Grace of God Go I. Let's heal our people.

**Child Care Subsidy for Working Class Members**  
A little bit of support will go a long way. We need to increase eligibility by no less than 300% over the poverty level to support our middle class families.

**Treaty & Tribal Membership Rights Enforced**  
The fiasco of Hoffman at the Consent Decree negotiations table and denigrating negative inter-tribal relations led to a forced decree. We need to continue to litigate but work to bring other tribes back to the table.

**3 Branch Government ~ Real Separation of Powers**  
This is steeped in our Indian Ways. Time to stop making excuses.

**Standing in Tribal Court to Protect Your Tribal Rights**  
A separation of powers and standing in Tribal Court are basic human rights not afforded to us today. We need a separation of powers now.

**Codify Tribal Preference in Hiring/ Set Goals**  
Our Constitution says we exist to perpetuate our way of life. Give members a job and it will reduce a need for services. Let's empower our people.

**Increase Casino/ Enterprise / Govt Team Members' Pay**  
Denny pushed for a living wage. It's time to live up to this promise.

**Administrative Law Judge to Protect Your Tribal Job**  
A right to your job should include the right to have a judge hear appeals.

**Create a Respectful Tribal Government *We can Trust***

PHONE: 906-322-0976

EMAIL: [sootribe@gmail.com](mailto:sootribe@gmail.com)

FACEBOOK: Betty Freiheit

# RE-ELECT BETTY FREIHEIT FOR UNIT 1

Thanks for Your Vote of Confidence!

# Vote Michael J. Lumsden

Sault Tribe Unit 1 Board of Directors

**Choose a brighter future for your Tribe by voting for new candidates with new ideas and open minds that understand government and business. Our Tribe needs new, competent, innovative, dynamic leaders, not the same relics from the past spewing the same failed campaign nonsense. Let's move forward together with new leaders! Be part of the solution and vote for new leaders!**

First, I thank voters for their support and I'm excited about the work we can do together to move our Tribe forward after many years of failure and broken promises from the old guard Board Members who have financially run our Tribe into the ground and failed to reform its government. Working together we will strengthen our Tribe!

This election is about electing new leaders that possess the experience, demonstrated leadership ability and vision to avoid the mistakes of the old guard Board Members who have held our Tribe back for two decades because they lacked the skills to lead and feared competition from new people with new ideas, that's why they banned their political rivals and didn't allow members outside the Election Units to run for office. The voters must look forward, not to the failed old guard leaders of the past. Voters must reject old guard Board Members who wasted millions of dollars of the memberships' money on failed business schemes/scams and attempted to crown their coup leader chairperson after the voters in Unit 1 rejected him. After the new Board of Directors protected voters and justifiably removed the coup leader, he then had the audacity to defy the decision of the voters and asked the Tribal Court to put him back in office, which the Court didn't do. The coup leader attempted to force voters to accept him

as their leader after they had just rejected him in an election, that's tyrannical, dictatorial, he didn't care what the voters wanted he was only concerned about satiating his lust for power, not respecting the voters, he acted against the will of the people (defied voters) and attempted to take power even if it meant corrupting the tribe's democratic government. Our Tribe can only move forward by leaving foolish, delusional, power-abusing, self-centered, old guard Board Members and their bad ideas behind us. They have failed and are a hindrance to the Tribe's development. To achieve success voters must choose new candidates who can lead, not the same relics spewing the same nonsense (broken/failed campaign promises) for the past 20 years. The truth is in the numbers (losses) and the old guard Board Members lost millions and millions of tribal dollars and proved they are not worthy of serving on your Board of Directors. Together we must make them go look for new jobs! It's time for new, talented, humble, leaders that don't act like toxic, arrogant, bigshots. Elect Michael J. Lumsden and his focus will be a new Constitution, making a profit, and responsible financial decisions to turn our Tribe around and help our people.

Vote Michael J. Lumsden – to stop scammers and a coup leader.



When elected Michael J. Lumsden will push the following agenda to help our tribe recover from the financial damage caused by old guard Board Members.

1. Michael J. Lumsden will work with the membership to make history by approving a new Constitution and creating a better government for our Tribe. We will adopt a new Constitution and celebrate this monumental/historical achievement together. We will succeed working together! We will put the failures of the old guard Board Members and their coup leader behind us!
2. Michael J. Lumsden will work to protect healthcare services and with assistance/input from healthcare staff and consultants develop innovative ways to generate more income by changing/expanding the tribe's healthcare model to bring more services to more members in the future.
3. If tribal programs/departments and businesses have money for pay increases they should reward eligible employees for their hard work. To attract and retain talented team members our Tribe must compensate employees fairly, eliminate organizational toxicity, and welcome recommendations from team members on how to improve the organization.
4. To stifle their competition old guard Board Members abused their power and enacted an unconstitutional Election Code that prohibits political endorsements in the Win Awenen Nisitotung newspaper. This violation of our precious right to freedom of speech/expression in our Tribe's newspaper is one more reason to replace incompetent, dysfunctional, old guard Board Members with knowledgeable leaders that respect your rights.
5. Our tribe must abandon the current failed tribal economic development model that lost millions of dollars and invest the tribe's money in Amer-

- ica's best public corporations and use the profits to build the Elder Fund.
6. Our tribe must allow all adult members to run for tribal office regardless of where they live because more competition means more new ideas to develop our Tribe. The same old guard Board Members spewing the same nonsense for over 20 years has resulted in failure, it's time to move on to new leaders with skills. The old guard Board Members and their coup leader lost millions of dollars – failure.
7. A priority will be to receive community input on major financial and policy decisions.
8. Our tribe must explore the Treaty Fishery for business opportunities for tribal commercial fishers and sport fishers and support tribal fish stocking programs.
9. A priority will be stopping political scammers (save millions) from establishing failed government economic development models that most likely will result in millions of dollars in losses.
10. A priority will be financially growing the tribe through sound investments in America's public corporations to secure a brighter future for our tribe, which is projected to grow by 5,000 members within the next year.
11. A priority will be providing transparent financial reports that do not shield tribal politicians from exposing their financial failures to the membership.
12. Our tribe must remove all unconstitutional restrictions on freedom of speech/expression from the Tribal Code and amend the Election Code to make it more affordable/easier for more leaders to run for office to strengthen the Board of Directors. The tribe needs more leaders to come forward and run for office to help fix the problems caused by incompetence and lack of leadership.
13. The voters must elect leaders that are strong enough to contribute to

- creating a healthy organizational culture, and a plan to achieve financial success, not dysfunctional, toxic people that cause chaos because they lack leadership skills and don't know how to work effectively with team members/community members. The old-guard-style of dysfunctional Board Members must be replaced by skilled, effective, compassionate leaders who will act like leaders, make wise decisions to avoid millions of dollars in losses, have a positive impact on the people they serve, and give the money to the members before wasting it on foolish economic development schemes.
14. Voters can begin the financial turnaround of their tribe by rejecting incompetent, dysfunctional, unstable old guard Board Members who have been financially running our tribe into the ground for 20 years. This will protect the tribe's resources.
15. A Board of Directors bogged-down by infighting and hatred for each other has no chance of making money for the voters. Old guard Board Members must be rejected and replaced with leaders so our tribe can prosper and reach its financial potential. Members want more services and money, so that means incompetent old guard Board Members need to look for new jobs.
16. The tribe's financial history of project failures and millions of dollars in losses is overwhelming evidence for voters to replace inept old guard Board Members with competent leaders that possess the skills and vision to financially grow the tribe.
17. Tribal members are frustrated because they are constantly being lied to. They are sick and tired of incompetent old guard Board Members failing them and they know that it's time for strong leaders to come forward and lead our tribe out of this financial mess.
18. Please vote to help our new Board of

- Directors achieve success by replacing failed, inept, dysfunctional old guard Board Members who have lost millions of dollars from the Lansing Casino financial disaster (since 2010, every single off-reservation casino project/proposal has failed, Greentown, Romulus, Lansing) costing the tribe millions of dollars in devastating losses. Our tribe cannot afford to employ incompetent old guard Board Members to bankrupt it with foolish business decisions.
19. A priority will be allocating more dollars to educate and train our tribal members.
20. A priority will be establishing an independent Tribal Court to adjudicate complaints, prevent unconstitutional governance, abuses of power, violations of rights, political scams, and a toxic organizational culture.
21. A priority will be supporting the tribal workforce by reducing organizational toxicity by allowing employees to sue their supervisors, co-workers, and Board Members who violate their rights in Tribal Court.
22. On top of losing millions of tribal dollars the old guard Board Members violated the rights of their political competitors by banning them from running for office for life and must be replaced by leaders that respect our rights and follow our laws. The old guard must be replaced by people who respect our Constitution.
23. To protect themselves from criticism old guard Board Members abused their power by enacting an unconstitutional Election Code that prohibits candidates/competition from criticizing them by name in the Win Awenen Nisitotung newspaper. This violation of our precious right to freedom of speech/expression in our Tribe's newspaper is one more reason to replace incompetent, dysfunctional, old guard Board Members with knowledgeable leaders that respect your rights.

**Vote Michael J. Lumsden – a leader to help make a profit!**

**Please contact the Michael J. Lumsden for Sault Tribe Unit 1 Board of Directors campaign at [mlumsden2@yahoo.com](mailto:mlumsden2@yahoo.com). Thank you.**

# New foods added to commodity foods

Three new foods will be added to the FDPIR food package and available on or after June 1, 2024.

### Turkey Deli Meat

Turkey deli meat frozen in a 2 pound pack is a new meat option and equal to one unit.

Expected availability is June 1.

When using sliced turkey deli meat:

— Thaw following the directions included on the product's packaging.

— Take out as many slices as you need and store remaining turkey deli meat in the refrigerator for up to three to five days or according to the product's packaging. You can also safely refreeze turkey deli meat in freezer-safe bags after properly thawing in the refrigerator.

Turkey deli slices are a low-sodium deli meat option for sandwiches and turkey and cheese roll-ups. Consider adding lettuce, tomato, and cheese for flavor and crunch.

### Vegetable Stir Fry Blend

Expected availability is June 1.

Vegetable stir fry blend frozen in a 1 pound pack is a new vegetable option and equal to one unit.

When using frozen vegetable stir fry blend:

— Take out what you need for a meal and put the rest back in the freezer in the original package or a freezer-safe bag or container.

— Always heat before eating.

Try it with rice, pasta, eggs, tortillas, casseroles, mixed with other vegetables or meats, or heated on its own as a side dish.

### Extra Virgin Olive Oil

Extra virgin olive oil in a 16.9 ounce glass bottle is a new oil option and equal to one unit.

Expected availability is late-summer.

When using extra virgin olive oil:

— Coat a skillet or pan when cooking to prevent food from sticking.

Consider making your own salad dressing by mixing it with an acid, such as lemon or vinegar, and adding any seasonings you have on hand, like herbs, garlic, black or white pepper, and dried chilis.

Product information sheets and recipes for new foods can be found here:

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/usda-foods/household-product-information-sheets-and-recipes>.

For more information about changes to the FDPIR Guide Rate, please speak with your FDPIR Program Operator.

# Commodity food per month increasing

## FDPIR Monthly Distribution Guide Rate Update:

Notice of Increase in the Number of Units for the Vegetable and Meat/Poultry/Fish Categories and Addition of New Foods

Beginning June 1, 2024, the amount of food offered in the FDPIR Food Package will increase. These changes support healthy eating by providing increased access to nutritious foods.

Category	Guide Rate Changes: Effective June 1, 2024
Vegetables	Increase from 18 to <u>20 units</u>
Meat/Poultry/Fish	Increase from 5 to <u>6 units</u>
New Foods	Vegetable stir fry blend, frozen (1lb.), Turkey deli, low-sodium, frozen (2lb.), and Extra Virgin Olive Oil (16.9 oz.)

### Increase in the Number of Units in the Vegetable Category

Each family member may take up to 20 units per person per month of fresh, frozen, or canned vegetables.



#### Example:

A family of 2 will now be able to take 40 units of vegetables, an increase from 36 units of vegetables per month.

### Increase in the Number of Units in the Meat/Poultry/Fish Category

Each family member may take up to 6 units per person per month of canned or frozen meat, poultry, or fish.



#### Example:

A family of 2 will now be able to take 12 units of meat/poultry/fish, an increase from 10 units of meat/poultry/fish per month.

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT - TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

## Vote Kim Gravelle Unit 1 — Experienced Leadership



*I sincerely thank you for your support and respectfully ask for your vote and the vote of your family members. We can accomplish great things if we focus and work together. Miigwech.*

*You can contact me at 906-322-9880 or [kkgravelle@yahoo.com](mailto:kkgravelle@yahoo.com).*

I am asking for your support because we need to focus on our young members with programs such as employment, budgeting, and daycare. Soon enough this generation will be our future leaders. Family and culture are some of the most important resources in a tribal community.

I have stayed at the forefront of the opioid crisis that is affecting Indian Country and our nation and will ensure our tribe will continue fighting for and stay on top of this epidemic. In the past, I along with my fellow board members, were instrumental in passing a resolution that guaranteed a COLA annually, a match to the 401K Retirement Plan, additional tribal housing, increased our land base, expanded and enhanced the JKL Bahweting Anishnabe PSA.

As a tribal member, with a family that is actively involved in our community, I am committed to our Tribe. I am hardworking and dedicated and will represent all tribal members with integrity and professionalism. With the right leadership we have a bright future.

### PRIORITIES:

- Improve our government through leadership that respects your opinions and ensures your voice is heard.
- Allow our program directors to do their jobs without interference.
- Invest in tribal families through improved housing, childcare, health care and jobs.
- Invest in our youth through better funding for educational/programs (Trade/Vocational Schools).
- Invest in our elders by letting their voices be heard about what services work for them.
- Diversify our businesses, enhance casino operations, (Promote Class III Gaming immediately).
- Strategic Planning for future generations.

### TRIBAL COMMITTEES:

- Early Headstart
- Gaming Authority
- Gaming Commission
- TAP Advisory
- JKL Fiduciary
- Special Needs Enrollment
- Sault Tribe Wellness Committee
- Pow Wow Planning Group

### EXPERIENCE/TRAININGS:

- Tribal Elections Training
- Basic Indian Law
- Tribal Enrollment Training
- Ethics Training
- Supervisor Management Skills
- Records Management
- American Genealogy Course
- Freedom of Information/Privacy Act
- VFW Volunteer
- Retired BIA Employee

### COMMITTEES:

- Sugar Island Historical Preservation Society
- LSSU Native American Advisory Council
- Title VII Indian Education Program
- Native American Retention Task Force
- LSSU Native Conference Committee
- Constitution Convention Committee
- Combined Federal Campaign
- American Red Cross
- Lifetime VFW Auxiliary Member

This ad is endorsed by Kim Gravelle.

# Walking on...

## HOPE "BEANIE" EMBER AKERS

Hope "Beanie" Ember Akers, three months old, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., died on May 3, 2024, at MyMichigan Center Sault.



Hope was born on Jan. 30, 2024, in Sault Ste. Marie to Scott Akers and Vanessa Sayles.

Beanie left us far too early but left a lasting impact on all those who loved her and will miss her dearly. Beanie had begun rolling over and loved blowing raspberries at her daddy. She could recognize the Law & Order theme song and liked Doggyland music. She was always smiling and was starting to show her true personality.

Beanie is survived by her parents, Scott and Vanessa; grandparents, Christyal Bellville, Jessica Carlson, and Stephan Carlson, all of Sault Ste. Marie; great-great-grandma Darlene Bellville of Ludington, Mich.; papa, Rick Byard of Sault Ste. Marie; aunts, Marie Sayles, Abby Bellville, Ella Bellville, Lily Sayles, Zoey Akers, Haley Cooper, Kylie Cooper, and Paige Akers; uncles, Brendan Brock, Noah McCory, Kevin Akers, and Justin Akers; and her fur-siblings, Lucy, Jaxs, Zero, Burks, and Boston.

Beanie was preceded in death by her grandfather, Nicholas Sayles; papa, Frederick Bellville Jr.; grandma, Nancy Carlson; uncle, Joseph Ellison; and cousin, Melonie

Mounts.

A pipe ceremony was held Wednesday, May 8, at 7 p.m. at the Niigaanaagiiizhik Cultural Center in Sault Ste. Marie. Visitation followed until the traditional ceremony on Thursday, May 9, at noon. Burial followed the feast at the Brevort Township Cemetery in Moran, Mich.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made in Hope's memory to the Chippewa County Animal Shelter, 3660 S Mackinac Trail, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

Family Life Funeral Homes assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be left to the family at [www.familylifefh.com](http://www.familylifefh.com).

## DORIS ANN MYERS

Doris Ann Myers, 88, of Hale, formerly of Clio, Mich., passed away, May 14, 2024.

Cremation arrangements were provided by Sharp Funeral Home and Cremation Center in Grand Blanc, Mich. Memorial Contributions in Doris' memory would be appreciated to Humane Society of Genesee County or Genesee County Animal Control.

Doris was born April 2, 1936 in Flint, Mich., the daughter of Clinton Albert and Hazel Katherine (Tallman) Parker. She graduated



from Clio High School in 1954. Doris was a beloved mother and grandmother, and a warmhearted homemaker who enjoyed knitting, sewing, and creating sock animals. A talented baker and cook, Doris was particularly known for her rhubarb pie, magic cookie bars, coleslaw, and potato salad. But above all, Doris will be remembered for her generous, easygoing nature, loving heart, and her often surprising dry sense of humor.

Doris is survived by her children, Debra L. (Harris H.) Dabideen, Diana M. Hillier, Bradley R. (Mari Heinze) Donovan, Matthew C. (Cathea) Donovan; grandchildren, Rachel Anne (Logan Bartram) Dabideen, Andrea Lynne Dabideen, Melissa D. (Zach) Zokoe, and Brian Hillier; great grandchildren; Grace and Gavin Zokoe; sister, Faye Markley.

Doris was preceded in death by, her parents; her first husband, Robert M. Donovan; her second husband, Gilbert Myers; infant son, Brian Lee Donovan; granddaughter, Olivia Rose Shafto.

## HARVEY WALTER DUTCHER

Loving father, grandfather, and husband: Harvey Walt Dutcher, 85, of Douglas, Ariz., passed away on Sept. 1, 2023.

He was born in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., in 1938 to Harvey William and Lucia



(Andress) Dutcher, he was the youngest of four children. Harvey (Walt) worked at General Motors in Lansing, Mich., and after retiring from GM, moved with his wife Linda Dutcher to Arizona.

He was preceded in death by his siblings, brother Ray Dutcher, and sisters Alice Gamble and Leona Brown, along with his stepson Jesse Martinez.

He is survived by this wife of 41 years Linda Dutcher, sons Harvey (Juliane) Dutcher, and Derek (Lisa), daughter Roxann Dutcher and stepdaughter Lorrie Gamble. He had nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Harvey, known to close friends and family as Walt, will always be remembered for his love of golf, fishing, hunting and camping. He also enjoyed going to see the Detroit Red Wings play with his family in Arizona.

He was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie tribe of Chippewa Indians.

He will be greatly missed by those who knew and loved him.

## MERLE "BUZZ" D. KARR

Merle "Buzz" D. Karr, 70, of Munising, Mich., died on Thursday, April 25, 2024 at Munising Memorial Hospital. He was born Aug. 2, 1953, the sixth of eight children to Merle F. and Dorothy (McNally) Karr.

In his youth, Buzz played Little League and participated in wrestling. At an early age, found his love for the woods and spent the

rest of his life hunting and fishing whenever he could. Merle graduated from Wm. G. Mather High School in 1972. He worked at several different

places. Merle worked construction with VanEss on the pipeline, logging in the woods with his brother-in-law Pete, Timber Products, with Uncle Arvo at Miller Tool & Die where he mastered his sharpening skills, the DePere foundry where he made a giant cast iron pot that family still uses today for large gatherings, and he spent over thirty years alongside his best friend, Greg Anderson and his wife, Mary Ann with Anderson Landscaping.

Merle married Kelly Anderson and together they raised their son, Merle J. Karr.

Buzz enjoyed working on snowmobiles with his cousin Kenny McNally and racing sleds in his younger years. Merle shot bows competitively and was U.P. champion in Class B archery multiple years.

He married Sheila (Terry) Enterline on July 1, 2015. She preceded him in death on July 13, 2023. Merle was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Merle is survived by his son Merle J. (Andi) Karr of Clintonville, Wisc.; stepdaughter

See "Walking on," page 17



# RE-ELECT MICHAEL MCKERCHIE

**Sault Tribe Board of Directors Unit One  
INVOLVED, RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP FOR ALL**



**Thank you for your support, I am thankful and humbled by it. I respectfully ask for your vote again in the general election.**

I am grateful to be a part of a team that has moved our Tribe forward. Together, in the past four years, we have: opened the new Anne Suggitt Early Childhood Education Center, began much-needed renovations of our Sault hotel, completed upgrades and renovations of our Niigaanagiiizhik Ceremonial Building and Pow Wow Grounds, opened the Crane Industrial Suites and emergency housing, expanded land holdings, created additional business holdings and support for Tribal Member-owned businesses and expanded health services.

**With your vote and continued support, in the next four years I will focus on:**

- Board accountability & preventing micromanaging
- Advocating for treaty rights and cultural growth
- Continuing to fight for higher wages and diversifying our economic growth
- Honoring and improving communications with our Elders and Youth
- Continuing to support separation of powers

Paid for and endorsed by Michael McKerchie

## MOVE FORWARD TOGETHER

I am dedicated to representing you, no matter where you live, and I understand the time and effort to do so. I've have proudly and honorably represented you at local, state, federal and intertribal meetings.

You deserve respectful, responsible leadership. Join me in saying that these values matter.

**906-748-7859 or FACEBOOK.COM/VOTEMCKERCHIE**



# Conducting Research

## Bahweting students examine stomach contents in Boat2School Program



Sault Tribe Fisheries Biologists Rusty Aikens and Ryan Grow prepare for their presentation to a class of sixth grade students at JKL Bahweting. On this day, the students were allowed to collect their own data, cutting open lake trout bellies, donated by commercial fishermen from the waters of northern Lake Huron. The students extracted multiple small fish, including one that had close to 45 minnows and charted their findings for their science class.



Science Teacher Mr. Thomann examines one of the small baitfish removed by student Ma'Layah Tobias.



Photos by Scott Brand  
Kayson Brown begins cutting into one of the stomachs under the watchful eye Kaiden Merchberger. The nice weather and outside picnic tables provided a good location for this series of autopsies. Additional photos can be found on Page 16.

*2nd Annual*  
**Niiwin Noodin Powwow**  
**Saturday, June 8, 2024**

**Friday, June 7**  
Teaching & Talking Circle, 6 p.m.

**Saturday, June 8**  
Vendors Open, 10 a.m.  
Cultural Teaching, 10 a.m.  
Grand Entry, 1 p.m.  
Community Feast, 6 p.m. (Elders, drummers, dancers eat before the general public.)

**Host Drum: Medicine Bear**  
**Co-Host Drum: Four Thunders**  
**Head Veteran and Head Dancers: TBA**

**Public Welcome to Attend!**

Elder Parking, Limited Handicap Parking, Transit by golf cart available.

**Vendors call:**  
(906) 450-0213 or  
(906) 450-9667

**General Powwow Contact:**  
niiwinnoodinpowwow@gmail.com  
or (906) 440-8138

Behind Manistique Tribal Community Center,  
5698W US Highway 2  
Manistique MI 49854  
Next To The Kewadin Casino

Niiwin Noodin Powwow





## High in Plain Sight: Current Drug Trends Training

Sault Tribe and Bay Mills Behavioral Health proudly welcome Officer Jermaine Galloway, aka "The Tall Cop"

Join us for an educational training to identify the drug trends in our community to prevent substance misuse on:

**Monday, July 1, 2024, 8 am-12 pm, at DreamMakers Theater, 2186 Shunk Rd., Sault Ste. Marie, MI, 49783**





Register Now!



**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension**

**ADULTS-ONLY, FREE EVENT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST INCLUDED**

- Stop in for 15-20 minutes after the event to visit the Hidden in Plain Sight trailer, 18+
- If you have any additional questions, please contact ayoung2@saulttribe.net
- This event is sponsored by SAMHSA grant #3H79TI085653-02S1



# Graduating seniors celebrated in Escanaba and Munising Schools honored graduates

Escanaba Area Public Schools held their annual Spring Feast April 16. Janine Adams, Title VI Indian Education coordinator and tutor said, "There is no way we could have our feasts without your generous tribe and the 2% grant support." The following Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa students were honored at the feast: Escanaba Indian Ed Parent Committee Senior Scholarship recipient and graduate: Kaelynn Duchene; Escanaba Indian Ed Parent Committee Senior Scholarship recipient and graduate: Addison Feathers; Indian Ed Student-of-the-Year, seventh grader Kody Wellman; Indian Ed Student-of-the-Year, eleventh grader Carter Heitman; and Deweigan Youth Circle role model, tenth grader Dylan Wellman.

The seniors graduating who are Sault Tribe members are: Elizabeth Adcock, Kaelynn Duchene, Addison Feathers, Taylor Johnson, Adelia Kang, Owen Labadie, Mya Lewis, Zander Makosky and Gracelynn Wiles.

"We're so proud of all of our students! We also had honor roll awards and so many are Sault Tribe members!" Adams said.



Indian Ed Student-of-the-Year, eleventh grader Carter Heitman



Indian Ed Student-of-the-Year, seventh grader Kody Wellman



Photos by Escanaba Area Public Schools Title VI Indian Education Coordinator/Tutor Janine Adams  
Deweigan Youth Circle role model, tenth grader Dylan Wellman.



Above: Indian Education Parent Committee Chairperson Tara Duchene (left) congratulates her daughter, Escanaba Indian Ed Parent Committee Senior Scholarship recipient and graduate Kaelynn Duchene. Below: Duchene congratulates Escanaba Indian Ed Parent Committee Senior Scholarship recipient and graduate Addison Feathers.



Photos by Tina Reinhardt  
Front row, left to right: Carol Horne, Native Education Coordinator for Munising Public Schools, Kim Swanberg retired Native Education Coordinator, Cindy Reimer, Sault Tribe Youth Education Coordinator for Unit 5. Back row guest speaker Dr. Martin Reinhart, graduate Cleo Witty, Margarette Beauchaine, Cotey Reece, Nicholas Kulik, and Unit 5 Director Tyler LaPlaut. Tribal seniors who were not able to make the dinner included Carly Reffruschinni, Frank Carlson, Madalin Henschel, Robert Johns II, Charles McGee, and Cody Lincoln.



Munising guest speaker Unit 5 Director Tyler LaPlaut.



Munising honored graduating tribal seniors with a recognition dinner, guest speakers, and the Teal Lake Singers Drum (above). Below: Guest speaker Dr. Martin Reinhart.



# Boat2School Program proves popular with Bahweting students



Above, Rusty Aikens points out the difference between a goby and sculpin to Isaac Sylvestre. Below, Kayson Brown, Kaiden Merchberger, Mariah Harris and Paislee Hiney working together.



Photos by Scott Brand  
Top left, Izzy Lane and Shay Schmalz separate their minnows while Levi Payment, above performs a similar task for his table. Left, Josie Suggitt and Sophia Palmer were a bit squeamish when it came to the hands on part of research, but did provide assistance to the team opting to record the data for future use. The Boat2School Program took the students to the Barbeau Fish Hatchery to see how the walleyes are raised to fingerlings and then to Massey's Fish House in St. Ignace to see how the fish are caught and processed. The week-long activity wrapped up on Friday with the students feasting on fish tacos.



Above, Sault Tribal Fisheries Biologist Kate Bentgen passed out rubber gloves before the operations got underway. Below, Joseph Homminga weighs the stomach contents for his team of researchers.




## Sault Tribe Powwow Grounds

Down the road from Big Bear Arena  
2 Ice Circle  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

### HEAD STAFF

Emcees - Joel Syrette & Shannon Martin  
Head Veteran - TBD  
Head Drum Judge - Keith Smith  
Dance Judges - Julie Whitepigeon and Ray Cadotte

Arena Director - Nick VanAlstine  
Head Dancers - Picked each session

### Invited Drum - Midnight Express

<h4>DRUM CONTEST</h4> <p>Must have 5 registered singers for all sessions</p>	<h4>DANCE PRIZES</h4> <p>Golden Age (Combined) Men's/Women's \$1,000; \$800; \$500 Adult Men's/Women's (Traditional, Fancy, Jingle, Grass) \$1,000, \$800, \$500 Teen Boys/Girls (Combined) \$300; \$200; \$100 Junior Boys/Girls (Combined) \$200; \$100; \$50 DANCER HONORARIUM SATURDAY &amp; SUNDAY</p>
<h4>DRUM PRIZES</h4> <p>1st Place - \$10,000 2nd Place - \$8,000 3rd Place - \$6,000 Drum Split for non-placing drums</p>	

### SCHEDULE

Thursday, July 4th • Sunrise Ceremony and Spiritual Gathering  
Friday, July 5th • Grand Entry 7 p.m. - Dance Specials – Pop up Contest!  
Saturday, July 6th • Grand Entries at 1 p.m. & 7 p.m.  
Sunday, July 7th • Grand Entry at 12 p.m.

### KEWADIN CASINO SAULT STE MARIE HOTEL INFORMATION

Call 1-800-539-2346 use block rate code 25922  
For Vendor Applications, Call 906-635-6510 or email [Acausley@saulttribe.net](mailto:Acausley@saulttribe.net)

# Walking on continued...

**From "Walking on," page 12**  
 Jodi Enterline; stepson Kyle Enterline; grandsons Jordan Karr and Matthew Bruce; siblings Susie (Vern) Steinhoff, Kathy (Pete) Syers, Gail (Dennis) Fleek, Howard (Theresa) Karr, and Carol Karr; brother-in-law Norm Fleek; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife Sheila, sister Muriel "Skippy" Fleek, and infant baby brother.

Visiting time with family and friends was held at the Bowerman Funeral Home on May 6, 2024, with Pastor Jason LaFlamme who conducted his memorial service in the funeral home's chapel. Interment followed at Maple Grove Cemetery.

Merle's obituary and online guestbook may be found at bowermanfuneralhome.net.

## FRANCES "FRAN" JANE (BROWN) LEAVITT

Frances "Fran" Jane (Brown) Leavitt, 72, of Pickford, Mich., died on May 9, 2024, in Petoskey, Mich., at McLaren Northern. Fran was born on Feb. 1, 1952, to John and Hazel (Bellant) Brown.

Fran grew up in St. Ignace, Mich. and graduated from LaSalle High School with the class of 1970. She then attended Kodiac Community College after becoming a military spouse and moved around for 22 years, raising her children. Fran moved to Kinross, Mich. in 2002 and began working at the Sault Tribe of Chippewa

Indians as a Youth Education Activities group leader and later as a program clerk in Community Health, also with the Sault Tribe.

She met Calvin R. Leavitt and they married on Aug. 27, 2005, at the Northern Light Assembly of God in Kincheloe. In 2007, they settled in Pickford, where they started their hobby farm. After many years, Fran retired in 2023 as an administrative secretary for Community Health.

Fran was a member of the Well Assembly of God and also attended Pickford Methodist Church. She loved her bible studies, and her animals - ranging from horses, sheep, goats, chickens, cats, and her beloved dog, Chip; she couldn't say no to an animal in need. She was a volunteer for the Pickford ambulance, was an accomplished seamstress, "Teacher of the Year" to Glen for most of his school years, and the best mother and grandma in the world.

Fran is survived by her daughter, Carrie (Jeffrey) Martin of Hayes, Va.; son, Glen Hall of Pickford; grandchildren, Joshua (McKensy) Martin of Brooksville, Fla., and Melaina Martin of Hayes, Va.; brother, Lawrence (Rosemary) Brown of St. Ignace; sisters, Theresa



(John) Robinson of St. Ignace, Mich., Mary (Dan) Christensen of Sturtevant, Wisc., Anne (Jim Scholzen) Brown of Union Grove, Wisc., Nora (Mark) DeKeuster of Racine, Wisc., Ruth McCord of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., and Mary (Dan) Erickson of Manistique, Mich.; and many nieces and nephews.

Fran was preceded in death by her parents, John Brown, and Hazel Bellant Brown France; husband, Cal Leavitt; and stepfather, Leonard France.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Well Assembly of God Church, 4867 W. Curtis St., Kincheloe, MI 49788 or to the "Noisy Offering" for the children's program at Pickford Methodist Church, 115 E. Church St., Pickford, MI 49774.

Visitation will be held on May 25, 2024, from 11 a.m. to noon at The Well Assembly of God, 4867 W. Curtis St., in Kincheloe, Mich., with a funeral service to follow at noon with a burial afterwards.

The burial will be at Epoufette Cemetery, in Naubinway, Mich. Family Life Funeral Homes assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be left to the family at www.familylifefh.com.

## JAMES LEVI MCCALL

James Levi McCall, 62, of St. Ignace, Mich., died at his home on May 6, 2024. He was born Jan. 13, 1962, in St. Ignace, to James Edwin and Evelyn (Montry) McCall.

James grew up in St. Ignace

and attended St. Ignace Area Schools. He worked on Mackinac Island, Mich., before becoming a cook at the Zodiac Restaurant for more than ten years. He met Deborah Ann Hanson and they married in Sept. 1984. They raised two daughters, while he worked at the Dockside Restaurant for a few years and then at the Hillside House where he was known for his breakfast. He continued cooking for thirteen years before retiring.

James was a lifelong member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

James loved hunting, fishing, watching YouTube, and spending time with his grandchildren. He also enjoyed hanging out with his family and friends and was the best storyteller.

James is survived by his daughters, Jamie (Travis) Pearson of Alanson, Mich., and Genifer McCall of St. Ignace; mother of his daughters, Deborah Ann Hanson; grandchildren, James M. (Michaela Titus) McCall, Gavin McCall Emrich, and Kayleigh McCall; sisters, Sharon Closs of St. Ignace, Barbara McCall of Baltimore, Maryland, Joni (Andy) Johnson of St. Ignace, and Diane (Jeff) Cavner of Canby, Ore.; brother, Kenny Brown of Moran, Mich.; many beloved nieces and



nephews; many beloved great nieces and nephews; great-great nieces and nephews; and many beloved friends.

James was preceded in death by his parents, James, and Evelyn; sister, Jeanie Edelman; brother-in-law, Donald Closs, and Charles Hanson; and many great friends. A celebration of life will be held Saturday June 1, at 1 p.m., at the VFW, 1110 N. State Street, in St. Ignace, Mich.

Final resting place will be at Wequayoc Cemetery in Hessel, Mich.

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

## LEO JOSEPH PAYMENT JR.,

Leo Joseph Payment Jr., 67, passed away April 30, 2024, in Albany, Georgia.

Leo was born March 7, 1957 in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., to the late Leo and Betty (Bottrell) Payment.

Leo was a proud retired veteran of the United States Army where he dedicated over 20 years of his life serving this country. He was a proud member of the Sault Tribe. He enjoyed cooking, woodworking, tinkering with cars, and most of all helping others within his community.

See "Walking on," page 20



# Vote for 30 Years of Service to the Tribal Board and Membership

## Knowledgable - Trustworthy - Capable - Informed - Dedicated



**Candidate Joanne Pavlat - Carr**  
 Unit 1 Sault Tribal Board of Directors

I'm **Joanne Pavlat-Carr**, an Ojibwe woman with traditional values. I want to be the next Unit 1 Board Member to help get our tribe back on track. I will work to restore and honor our traditional Anishnaabe ways because we need them. We need to be: honorable, trustwrothy and loyal to our people.

With integrity, I will follow the Constitution to the letter and I will work diligently to strengthen all Tribal Laws and Codes because our Tribal Board needs to abide by the same laws that govern our people. I believe we need to elect our Tribal Judges and Prosecutors so that there is a separation of powers between the Tribal board and our judicial system.

With my 30 years of board experience, I know what it takes to get the job done. I will be accountable, transparent and fiscally responsible. I would be honored to serve as your Unit 1 Board Member and respectfully ask for your vote. Miigwech!

Paid for and endorsed by Joanne Pavlat-Carr

**While in the military, my family and I lived outside of the seven county service area for 17 years. I know what it's like to need help when it is not available.**

**I want to be the voice for Unit 1 constituents with eyes and ears for all Tribal members no matter where you live. I want to lend a helping hand by expanding access to:**

- **Rental Assistance, no matter where you live.**
- **Homeownership program, no matter where you live.**
- **Tribal Community Foundation, no matter where you live.**

**We need to take care of our employees with better wages and better working conditions. Together, we can do it!**



**My Guiding Principles Are The Seven Grandfathers**  
 Truth, Honesty, Bravery, Wisdom, Humility, Love & Respect

**My Husband Fred Carr**  
 51 Years of Marriage

**My Parents**  
 Edna & Cecil Pavlat

**My Grandparents**  
 Edward & Maggie Gurnoe

# Experience — Stability — Trustworthy

*Thank You*

I am honored to represent our families in Unit 2 – Chi Miigwech to all our community members and all those living outside the area for trusting and supporting me during the primary election as your Unit 2 representative. I stand strongly by our people and remain dedicated and completely committed to our families, economic advancements and our sacred culture and sovereignty. Please once again cast your vote in the upcoming General Election in June 2024.



*Lana*

**VOTE**

**Lana Causley-Smith for Unit 2**

This ad is endorsed by Lana Causley-Smith.

## DEAN HYSLOP, SR. FOR UNIT 2 SAULT TRIBE BOARD OF DIRECTOR

Responsible

Accountable

Reliable

Fair

**VOTE FOR CHANGE**

**VOTE FOR "BIG" DEAN**

- ⇒ Address tribal health care crisis.
- ⇒ Address tribal employee recruitment and retention deficiencies.
- ⇒ Tribal sufficiency, resiliency, and sustainability.
- ⇒ Separation of powers.
- ⇒ Constitutional change.
- ⇒ Protect treaty rights.
- ⇒ Food sovereignty.
- ⇒ Expand tax agreement area.
- ⇒ Increase cultural teachings.
- ⇒ Support higher education and trade skill opportunities.
- ⇒ Eliminate nepotism and cronyism.
- ⇒ Proper and timely employee training.
- ⇒ Increase employee pay.
- ⇒ Career advancement opportunities.
- ⇒ Eliminate hostile work environment.
- ⇒ Provide equal opportunities for all members.

- ◆ **Bring back our ceremonial pipe and make our tribe whole again.** I was at the board meeting when it was taken away from us, and I will work hard to have her returned.
- ◆ **Increase services to accommodate new members without impacting existing members.** We need to ensure services are accommodating all members.
- ◆ **Expand elder services to provide necessary food and shelter regardless of income.** There are many elders who make a little more than requirements and need help. No elder should want for food, water or shelter.
- ◆ **Expand services to provide commodities regardless of age and income.** There are also many younger members who make a little more than requirements who are also suffering. Let's get them help too.
- ◆ **Increase yearly elder checks.** It goes without saying, the amount elders receive is a disgrace and embarrassment.
- ◆ **Provide support to members outside of the service area.** Many members outside the service area face the same issues as those within the area. We need to remove this barrier and provide services and support to all members regardless of where they live.
- ◆ **Provide safe, barrier-free facilities.** Let's reduce the backlog of deferred maintenance.
- ◆ **Establish a Commercial Fisher Retirement Fund.** Since fishers do not receive social security, they need support through retirement.
- ◆ **Grow self-sustaining tribal businesses that provide financial support back to tribal services.** Our tribal businesses should be contributing money to the tribe, not taking it from the tribe.



(906) 322-8470

JOIN ME ON FACEBOOK:  
**@big.dean.hyslop.for.unit.2**

Dean Hyslop, Sr. endorses this advertisement.

Please Vote:

Sault Tribe Unit 1 Board

Paid & Endorsed by Aaron Payment, Betty Freiheit & Reference to Chairman Austin Lowes, endorsed by Chairman Lowes

# PAYMENT

*For Strong Local, Regional, Inter-Tribal & National Leadership*



Pictured (above) with Holly Cook Macarro (Red Lake Tribe) & Chairman Mark Macarro (Pechanga Band). To the right, with Fawn Sharp (Quinault Nation). Both past NCAI Presidents.



My heart is warmed by the outpouring of your support in the primary. **Chi Megwitch.** My entire career has been in service to Our Sault Tribe People and to benefit all Indian people. I am prepared to work hard to support a team effort with Chairman Austin Lowes, Betty Freiheit, and the rest of the **New & Improved Board.**

Betty and I don't agree on everything but we share our passion for advocating and even fighting for our people. When first elected, she jumped right and joined me in testifying on behalf of tribal victims of crime. *I Support & Endorse Betty Freiheit for Unit 1 ~ Tribal Board.*

We have so much work to do & I am good at it. Please return me to the Board so we can get back to work.

*~ Chi Megwitch, Aaron A. Payment*



Aaron and Congresswoman Haaland (now Sec. of Interior) collaborated to get Advanced Appropriations passed to insulate Indian Health Services from federal Government Shut Downs.

**National Congress of American Indians President Mark Marcarro:**

*"Both Dr. Payment and I served as NCAI 1st VP; I currently serve as President. Aaron is a tireless and effective advocate for reminding Congress to uphold the treaty and trust obligation."*

**Past NCAI President Fawn Sharp adds:** *"Aaron is a nationally respected champion for Native women and any other issues of important to Tribal Nations. I know I can count on Dr. Payment's Leadership".*



**Past Congresswoman Deb Haaland (Laguna) on Aaron Payment**

*"Chairman Payment is a dear friend and I have long been inspired by his leadership. Dr. Payment's voice has been critical in testifying before Congress about crucial tribal policies including funding during the government shut down & in securing \$ 8 Billion in Cares Act Funding...to help Tribes. His voice is powerful and inspiring..."*

*...I am so grateful for all Aaron does for Indian Country"*



**Olympic 10K Gold Medalist Billy Mills on Aaron Payment:**

*"I have always been impressed with his passion to empower the visions of Elders and inspire the dreams of the youth. I have witnessed Aaron do this as Chairperson on a local and national level".*

**Nick Lewis adds,** *"I have come to know Aaron as a National leader across Indian Country who leads with his passion for our Native People's well being".*

With Olympic Champion Billy Mills (Pine Ridge Lakota) and with Tribal Councilman Nick Lewis (Lummi) who currently serves as Secretary of the National Congress of American Indians, a position Aaron held for two terms. Aaron also served as 1st VP for NCAI for two terms & Regional VP or a total of 10 years in NCAI Executive Leadership. Aaron's leadership is well known and respected in Indian Country. Aaron's work with these two tribal leaders has been focused on wellness and physical wellbeing.

Please Contact Me to Volunteer ~ AARON'S PHONE: 906-203-5159 AARON'S EMAIL: aaronpayment@yahoo.com

## Tradition of Tribal Giving

Prior to Betty & Austin joining me on the Board, none of the incumbents shared in contributing to our scholarship funds or Children's Christmas parties. The first year Betty & Austin were elected, they matched me equally to give \$6,000 to help raise \$100,000 in scholarships and \$24,000 in Children's Christmas Parties. Over the years, I have contributed over \$200,000 to benefit our people. I endorse both Betty and Austin and respectfully request your vote to allow us to keep giving.

*~ Chi Megwitch,  
Aaron*

Chairperson Aaron A. Payment  
Board Member Betty Freiheit  
Board Member Austin Lowes

September 1, 2021

Pay to the Order of

Sault Tribe Golf Scholarship

\$ 6,000.00

Paid & Endorsed by Aaron Payment, Betty Freiheit & Reference to Chairman Austin Lowes, endorsed by Chairman Lowes

# PAYMENT

Please Vote: Sault Tribe Unit 1 Board

# Walking on continued...

From "Walking on," page 17

Leo is survived by his children Daniel (Karen) Payment and Tonya Maerker and his grandchild Sarah Maerker. Leo is also survived by his siblings Jack Payment, Carol Starnes, JoAnn Mason, and Pat (Gene) Latour. Leo also recognized Zavious (Courtney) Wade and Melvin Keith Smith as his brothers.

Leo was preceded in death by his parents and three siblings: Cindy Payment, Franny Prater, and Glenn Payment.

## EDWARD ALLEN PERRY

Edward Allen Perry, known affectionately as Gekek

Oshkiinzhig to those who shared in his Native American heritage, which means "Hawkeye," passed away peacefully in Marquette, Mich., on April 11, 2024, at home in the loving care of his family at the age of 68.

Born on May 14, 1955, to William and Pearl (Paquette) Perry, in the same town that would witness his remarkable life's journey from beginning to end, Eddy was a true son of Marquette, a true Swamper and Trowber, and a proud graduate of Marquette Senior High School. After high school, Eddy

answered the call of duty and served his country in the United States Army. His commitment took him to Korea, where he dedicated four years of service before receiving an honorable discharge. Returning home, Eddy embarked on a new adventure as a commercial fisherman, navigating the waters of the Great Lakes for 15 years, building a reputation for his hard work and expertise.

When the tides of life shifted, Eddy found solace and challenge in the woods, taking up logging, a profession that kept him close to the earth he revered. His industrious spirit didn't stop there; he also became a self-employed private mechanic, applying his skills and resourcefulness to help anyone in need. Eddy's work ethic was only matched by his generosity and willingness to lend a hand, making him a beloved fixture in Trowbridge Park.

His interests were as vast as the Great Lakes he once fished. An avid Detroit Tigers and Lions Fan, always waiting for his Lions to win the Super Bowl. Ed was also a great baseball player. His connection to nature was profound, enjoying the simplicity of hunting, fishing, and working on his camp. He found joy in feeding the birds and squirrels, a simple pleasure that reflected his kind and nurturing soul.

Eddy's laughter was conta-

giuous, and his ability to make others laugh was a gift he freely gave. Family was the cornerstone of his life and he cherished every moment spent with them.

As a proud member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Eddy held his Native American heritage in high regard, embodying the spirit of community and fellowship in all his actions.

His beautiful smile and outgoing nature made him a friend to many, and his ability to fit in with anybody was a testament to his friendly and kind demeanor. Eddy was the person who would give the shirt off his back without a second thought, a testament to his generous spirit. Eddy had a special bond with his brother-in-law Bryan Reynolds, who was more like a brother to him. He had many friends, one of his best friends being his cousin Ernie Mattson.

Eddy is survived by his loving children, Billi Jo (Glenn) Lehtomaki, Kimmie Perry, and Missy (Jason Rzanca) Perry, all of Marquette. His legacy continues through his cherished grandchildren, Mikayla (Dakota) Alexander and Tyler Lehtomaki, and great-grandchildren, Cashtyn Lehtomaki and Caius Alexander. He will also be fondly remembered by his brothers Billy (Kathy) Perry, Monte (Sue) Perry, Ted (Phyllis) Perry, his sisters Sandy Bellmore,

Becky (Bryan) Reynolds, Wendy (George) LaFave, and several nieces and nephews who will miss his guidance and humor.

Eddy was preceded in death by his beloved parents, his grandson Bentley Perry, his brother Joseph Perry, his sisters Kitty Myers and Sue Perry, brothers-in-law Richard Bellmore and Mike Myers, and his niece Bobbi Sue (Perry) Roeder and a great-niece Jadee Sue (Bellmore) Taylor.

Eddy Allen Perry's life was a tapestry of service, community, and laughter, woven with threads of kindness and friendship. His memory will live on in the hearts of those who knew him and in the natural beauty of the Marquette landscape he so dearly loved. He will be deeply missed, but his spirit will continue to inspire all who were fortunate enough to have known him.

Visitation took place at the Fassbender Swanson Hansen Funeral and Cremation Services on April 18 with Fr. Dan Moll as officiant. A reception followed. Interment took place April 19 in the Holy Cross Cemetery with military honors.

Memorials may be made to the Perry Family, 2022 Center Street, Marquette, MI 49855.

The Fassbender Swanson Hansen Funeral and Cremation Services is serving the family where condolences may be expressed online at [fassbender-swansonhansen.com](http://fassbender-swansonhansen.com).

## MARYANN MARGARET "SISSY" PHELPS

MaryAnn Margaret "Sissy" Phelps (née Saxon), 75, of Brooklyn Park, Minn., passed away on April 30, 2024 at her daughter's home in Minneapolis after a valiant struggle with late-stage systemic Amyloidosis.



MaryAnn Margaret Saxon was born on Dec. 31, 1948 in Princeton, Minn., to Annie Jane (Veal) Saxon and David Edward Saxon. She and her family moved back and forth from Princeton to South Minneapolis through her childhood, but she always considered herself a country girl living in the city. She was united in marriage to Walter Boyd Phelps on Sept. 25, 1971 at a Lutheran Church in North Minneapolis. A son, Walter Boyd Phelps, Jr., and a daughter, Marilyn Jayne Phelps, were born to this union. She started working as a postal clerk once her children had started school.

Sissy loved her family and they were the focus of her life. She raised her grandson from the age of six weeks and continued to care for him through her life and was also the caregiver for her granddaughters for ten years. She enjoyed visiting relatives, garage sale-ing and thrifting, and attending her grandson's sporting

See "Walking on," page 21



# ★ RE-ELECT BRIDGETT SORENSON ★ TO THE SAULT TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS UNIT 3 SEAT



## NEWLY APPOINTED TO

- LaSalle High School CTE Advisory Committee
- Member of the HUD TIA (12 Tribal Leaders)
- Member of the MSHDA EAC (Only Tribal Member)

## QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration Lake Superior State University
- Associate's Degree in Business Management North Central Michigan College
- Held a Real Estate License for 10 years
- Previously worked for the Sault Tribe for 10 years (HR, Casino and EDC)
- Attend local government meetings
- Events Manager for Community Events

## COMMUNITY SERVICE & BOARDS

- President of Moose Lodge 999
- President for St. Ignace Hockey Association until 2023
- Chair of the St. Ignace Recreation Board
- Chair of the Sault Tribe Housing Commission
- Sault Tribe Head Start Advisory Board
- Community Action Grant Committee
- Title 6 Indian Education Committee
- Past Mackinac County Relay for Life Leader
- Blood Drive Coordinator for 5 years
- Started St. Ignace Pink in the Rink Fundraiser and St. Ignace Camo Hockey Veteran Fundraiser
- Member of the Women of the Moose
- Member of St. Ignace Catholic Church
- Member Chipper Huskey Scholarship Committee

## SINCE BEING ELECTED

- Secured Handicapped Vans for each unit for Elders
- Brought Resolution to evaluate expanding our service area below the Mackinac Bridge (2023)
- Recently added taxes to increase Land Claims Fund
- Continue to bring cultural workshops to our area
- Worked with the City of St. Ignace to pass a resolution to honor Indigenous People's Day (ONLY unit that has done this)
- Brought forward to sponsor food trucks twice a year in all units
- Brought back the 401K
- Lowered team member insurance premiums
- Never demanded jobs, raises, houses, etc. for my family
- Given away yearly \$1000 in scholarships
- Wrote a Unit Report in every issue of the Sault Tribe Newspaper
- Held Monthly Unit Meetings
- Held Office Hours by Appointment
- Was tasered by Law Enforcement for Junior Police Academy Fundraiser
- Brought about Indigenous People's Day as a paid holiday for all employees
- We created many new businesses
- We created a support system for tribal business owners

## NEXT FOUR YEARS

- Expand health care beyond the service area
- Expand elder services and activities
- Update the Kewadin Shores Casino and add Hotel Tower
- Work on amendments to the constitution
- Work on better solutions for addictions (Detox, rehab, transitional housing)
- Build or purchase several homes for rental and homeownership
- Implement a code for Grandparent's Rights
- Continue to advocate for better working conditions, wages and benefits
- Continue to advocate for our Treaty Rights
- Continue to diversify our business portfolio
- Continue work on facilitating the trades for our youth
- Continue the great relationship I have with local government agencies
- Continue to tell the truth even if it is not what you want to hear
- Continue to stand up against nepotism and corruption

# EXPERIENCE MATTERS

My entire career has been with our Tribe and I take this responsibility seriously. I am once again humbly asking for your support.

Reach out to me via email, phone, or via my tribal Facebook page if you have any questions or concerns – I am dedicated to improving the lives of our members and maintaining our traditions.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ME

★ 906.430.0536 ★  
BRIDGETT91@YAHOO.COM

Bridgett Sorenson Unit 3  
Sault Tribe Board Of Directors

PAID FOR AND ENDORSED BY BRIDGETT SORENSON

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# Walking on continued...

From "Walking on," page 20 events and Special Olympics activities. She was proud of her Ojibwe heritage, the traditions learned from her grandmother Mary Thomas Veal and a proud member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa in Michigan. She loved showing her grandchildren their Native American heritage, bringing them to powwows, drum and dance classes, and Osseo Public Schools Indian education events for the last several decades. She will fondly be remembered as a devoted mother and grandmother, her kindness extending beyond her family. Many of the OMGAA Special Olympics participants simply call her "Grandma" to this day. Mary Ann's unconditional love and selflessness touched the lives of many, leaving a lasting impact on all who were fortunate enough to know her.

Preceded in death by her mother, father, two half siblings, Sandy and Lewis Saxon, special grandmother Mary, many beloved aunts, uncles and cousins.

Survived by her husband of 52 years, Walt; son, Walter, Jr. of Coon Rapids, Minn.; daughter, Marilyn of Fergus Falls and Minneapolis; step-daughter Caron (Dave) Watzke of Las Vegas, Nev.; grandson, Joel Phelps of Brooklyn Park; granddaughter, Madelyne Phelps of

Morris and Annie Phelps of Fergus Falls; great granddaughter, Maya Phelps of Fergus Falls; sister, Marilyn Iverson (née Saxon) of Northfield; half siblings, David, Jr., Ronald, Loren, Elaine, Dyan, Shirley, Phyllis, and Evelyn Saxon, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

A memorial service was held on May 8 at Evans-Nordby Funeral Home in Brooklyn Center with Rev. Tiffany Sundeen of First Lutheran Church of Fergus Falls officiating with a luncheon and burial in Oak Knoll Cemetery following graveside services.

## ALAN RAY RABIDEAU

It is with great sadness that the family and friends of Alan Ray Rabideau, 53, announce his passing on May 14, 2024, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

Alan Ray Rabideau was born on March 3, 1971, in Escanaba, Mich, to James Stephen and Arlene Ramona (Souliere) Rabideau.

Alan's real passion was his love and dedication to his life's work in helping and advocating for our youth. Through many jobs throughout his life, Alan



touched the lives of countless people and will be greatly missed. Quite simply, the world was a better place because he was in it.

Alan enjoyed going to the casino, playing cards, dice, and other games with friends and family. He also enjoyed cooking and eating delicious food.

Alan is survived by his brother, Robert Rabideau, and his sons, Scott Norwood, and Mike Newberry; and his dog, Biidaabin.

Alan was preceded in death by his parents, James, and Arlene; and brother, James Rabideau.

A traditional ceremony was held May 19 at the Niigaanagiizhik Ceremonial Building in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

Family Life Funeral Homes assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be left at [www.familylifefh.com](http://www.familylifefh.com).

## EDWARD JOHN SHEBER

Edward John Sheber, 43, of Moran, Mich., died on April 16, 2024, at his home. Edward was born on Feb. 7, 1981, in Cheboygan, Mich. to Daryl and Susan



(Sheber) Smith.

Edward lived between St. Ignace, Mich., and Moran his entire life and was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Edward enjoyed music and sports- especially basketball. He loved spending time with his family and spent years taking care of his aunt.

Edward is survived by his brothers, James (Michelle)

Sheber of St. Ignace, and Eric Sheber of Sault Ste. Marie.

Edward was preceded in death by his parents, Daryl and Susan; and brother, Jeffery Sheber. A Visitation and Funeral Service will be held at a later date.

Edward's final resting place will be St. Ignatius Cemetery, in St. Ignace. Family Life Funeral Homes assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be left at [www.familylifefh.com](http://www.familylifefh.com).

**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.

# JOHN RICKLEY

FOR

## UNIT 3

### Natural Resources

- Previously served on the Inland Conservation Committee
- Passionate about our natural resources and our ability to exercise treaty rights for subsistence hunting, harvesting, and fishing which preserves and protects our culture and teachings
- Devise ways to blend our Traditional Environmental knowledge with modern management tools to foster healthy, balanced ecosystems
- Protect treaty rights, which are a direct representation of our sovereignty as a tribal nation

### Economics

- Work with business professionals and experienced talent to grow diverse economic streams.
- Recognize and attract the existing talent within our at-large membership
- Advocate for more competitive wages and better representation for tribal employees
- Collaborate with state and federal entities to create training and career opportunities for in-demand occupations

### Vision

- Increase economic prosperity to better assist all membership in meeting their needs
- That all tribal members, in the service area and at-large, are represented
- Improve transparency in all aspects of our tribal government

**Aaniin, I humbly ask for your vote in the upcoming general election for Unit 3 Board of Directors. I welcome your calls, emails, texts, and messages. Chi miigwech, John Rickley**



## VOTE JOHN RICKLEY

906.430.0833 [johnrickley@gmail.com](mailto:johnrickley@gmail.com)

Facebook: John Rickley - Candidate for Unit 3 Sault Tribe Board of Directors

# National Treatment Court Month celebrated

BY KASEY KUEMIN, PROBATION OFFICER

SSM Chippewa Tribal Court May is an exciting month because it's National Treatment Court Month! This special month is dedicated to raising awareness about treatment courts and celebrating their impact on individuals and communities.

Treatment courts play a crucial role in helping people overcome substance abuse issues and find a path to recovery. They provide a supportive and structured environment that combines judicial supervision with comprehensive treatment services. Sault Tribe's Gwaiak Miicon healing-to-wellness court program is just one of

those treatment court programs.

In existence since 2000, Gwaiak Miicon (rough English translation is "straight path") strikes balance between holding offenders accountable while providing support so that they are able to access substance use and mental health treatment.

Here in Gwaiak Miicon, we offer hope to individuals who saw no hope in their lives with out drug court. Treatment providers ensure each person in our program receives an individualized, evidence-based treatment plan, and work together with the Judge, defense attorneys, prosecutors, peer recovery coaches, and law enforcement to provide ongoing

support and accountability. This approach allows our court program to identify and meet individual needs beyond clinical treatment, such as education, employment, housing assistance, family reunification, restitution, and healthcare. There are a total of 210 lifesaving

Participation in drug court is no easy task, as the requirements are rigorous. With frequent court appearances, frequent alcohol and other drug testing, intensive individualized treatment, and rigorous supervision, Gwaiak Miicon requires active participation.

In the Gwaiak Miicon program, for over the course of at least one year, participants move through the four phases of our program,

with each phase being based on the medicine wheel.

Phase one, the cleansing phase, focuses on separating the physical self from the drugs and alcohol. The second phase is the action phase and focuses on connection to spirit. Phase three, the building phase, focuses on mental wellness and living in recovery. And the final phase, the maintenance phase, emphasizes emotional balance and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Over the past 24 years, this court has seen 45 participants who successfully completed this program and changed their lives.

National Treatment Court Month is an opportunity to recognize the hard work and dedication

of treatment court professionals, participants, and supporters. It's a time to highlight the success stories and the positive impact treatment courts have on reducing recidivism, improving public safety, and promoting healthier communities.

The Gwaiak Miicon program continues to be an invaluable resource to help our tribal community members heal. So, let's join in celebrating National Treatment Court Month and spreading the word about the amazing work being done in these courts!

For more information consult our program manuals online at [saulttribe.com/governemnt/tribal-court/download-files](http://saulttribe.com/governemnt/tribal-court/download-files) or contact the court at (906) 635-4963.

# National Foster Care Month spotlights foster families

BY ASHLEY MORROW, ACFS

Every May, attention turns to National Foster Care Month devoted to recognizing the crucial contributions of foster families and individuals committed to providing nurturing and stable environments for children who have experienced abuse, neglect, or other difficult situations.

National Foster Care Month serves as a reminder of the ongoing need for more foster parents while recognizing the invaluable contributions of those who have opened their hearts and homes to provide safety and support for children in crisis. With over 391,000 children and youth currently in foster care, this month serves as a platform to express gratitude to the family members,

foster parents, volunteers, mentors, and child welfare professionals who tirelessly advocate for and nurture these vulnerable individuals.

ACFS extends its heartfelt appreciation to all foster families who have made a profound difference in the lives of struggling children and families. Their compassion and commitment to service significantly impact the well-being of children and teens on a daily basis. ACFS acknowledges and values their dedication in safeguarding and nurturing our most precious assets.

ACFS is facing a shortage of foster homes to adequately serve the growing number of children in their care. It is always ACFS's goal to pair a child with a tribal

foster home. This is the best way to maintain their connections to Native American culture and traditions. ACFS also monitors tribal cases across the United States, and can help match a child with a tribal resource foster home, even if they are located outside the seven-county service area. When there is a pool of resource foster homes it is easier to match the child with a tribal home. ACFS is in need of foster homes inside and outside of the seven-county service area. If you are interested in becoming a foster parent, regardless of location, you are urged to call.

Contact ACFS at (906) 632-5250, or at (800) 726-0093, or by email at [acfs-fosterhomes@SaultTribe.net](mailto:acfs-fosterhomes@SaultTribe.net).



On April 19, Anishnaabek Community and Family Services hosted its third annual Child Abuse Awareness Drive-Thru event at the Big Bear parking lot in Sault Ste. Marie. Attendees received T-shirts and goodie bags, and community partners handed out information and promotional items.



**LARRY BARBEAU**

FOR

**UNIT 4**



### MY PRIORITIES:



**Safeguarding our rights to hunt, fish, and gather as per our treaty obligations.**



**Expanding the availability of tribal housing in Unit 4.**



**Prioritize the needs and preferences of our Elders**



**Furthering Opioid treatment efforts**



**Promote healing from traumas caused by Indian boarding schools.**



**Separation of power**

I am a devoted single father to my wonderful 8-year-old daughter, Olivia, and a commercial fisherman from Garden. For the past two decades, I have owned and operated my fishing company. Currently, I have been serving on the conservation committee for 6 years. Moreover, I have been actively involved in coaching baseball for 12 years and basketball at Big Bay de Noc Schools for 17 years, working with the youth in my community.

I am a strong advocate for upholding our treaty rights in hunting and fishing. Within my business, I have provided employment to tribal citizens, training them in fishing and processing skills. Recognizing a knowledge gap on our board of directors concerning treaty rights, I believe that my experience and insights can bridge this gap effectively.

I humbly request your support and vote for the Unit 4 seat.

CALL ME FOR MORE INFO  **906-450-6087**

# VOTE FOR CHANGE

LARRY BARBEAU ENDORSES THIS ADVERTISEMENT

# First Lady Jill Biden comes to Niigaanagiizhik



**AUSTIN LOWES**  
TRIBAL CHAIRMAN  
Aaniin,

Much has happened since my last unit report. I will begin by discussing the First Lady's and Second Gentleman's visit to BMIC and the Sault Tribe

Reservation on May 16-17. During the visits, Bay Mills President Gravelle and I had the opportunity to discuss important issues facing Indian Country. This included a roundtable discussion at our Niigaanagiizhik building regarding health.

Representing the Sault Tribe at this table were the board members who have experience working in healthcare: Kimberly Hampton (psychologist), Tyler LaPlaut (healthcare administration, policy and public health), and myself (clinical social worker). This was a productive visit that provided the White House with valuable information regarding our community needs. It's important to note that part of our role as tribal leaders is to work with whoever is in office — Democrat or Republican —

to advocate for Indian Country. Meetings like this therefore shouldn't be viewed as endorsements of who we're meeting with, but rather as opportunities to strengthen our government-to-government relationship and to remind those in office of their trust obligation to tribes.

I will now discuss substance abuse services. One of my goals is to provide a permanent location for Wellbriety, Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous meetings in Sault Ste. Marie. The tribe owns a church on Shunk Road that would be perfect for this service. The church was neglected for several years and is currently being renovated. I am sponsoring a resolution to utilize a small portion of our opioid settlement to pay for this renovation. If passed, this

will finally provide our tribe with a permanent location for these services.

I will now provide an update regarding Sault Tribe Inc., which was created to be an independent business arm of the tribe providing dividends to pay for services. The previous board invested in STI by awarding it our online gaming and Lume contracts.

There have been several issues with STI. The first is that the dividends have been several million dollars short of what we would have received if we had kept these contracts within the tribe.

The second issue, and this is a big one, is that STI is considered an at will employer. According to every attorney that works for the tribe, this means it cannot pay severances. Despite its corporate charter prohibiting this,

an employee was paid a \$92,000 severance along with a \$100,000 bonus that wasn't tied to performance metrics. STI also sold a business without informing the tribe (Benesi Construction). Due to this, the board voted 8-3 to remove two members of STI's board. It is unfortunate to report this, but due to misinformation that's being intentionally spread, I felt it was important to set the record straight.

To conclude, our Childcare Education Program is accepting applications. Both of my daughters attended this program, and I encourage you to apply if your child needs childcare. If you work in this program, hats off to you. You work in an amazing program that helps so many families.

Austin Lowes,  
(906) 635-6050

## We need to modernize our healthcare system



**ISAAC MCKECHNIE**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Dear Citizens,  
First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the new members of the Election Commission and tribal election attorney during this election cycle. We all know it's a thankless job and it takes a dedicated, honest and trustworthy person to become great Election Commission members.

On March 14, 2024, the Sault Tribe Board of Directors had a full day workshop with Bluestone on the health systems operational assessment findings and recommendations for the Health Division. First of all, I'm excited that we are moving forward with healthcare reform and with the help from Bluestone to guide us through the needed changes to modernize our healthcare systems. The plan for implementation is to have Bluestone work with us on their recommendations without board or staff interference. This will allow us to modernize and bring our entire healthcare systems up to date without interference. One of the hardest things will be changing our employees' "this way things have always been done" mindset.

The Bluestone Operational Assessment identified areas within our health systems that are leaving tens of millions of dollars on the table for various reasons within our health system operations.

Some of the areas for improvement:

- We need to update our processes and procedures to successfully bill services for all providers including locums and contracted providers. It's

estimated that we are losing over a million dollars a year by not having processes in

- place to capture these funds.
- We need established better metrics for data collection

that we receive from providers. Over the past two years, we have been meeting with

Health administrative staff. It has been difficult to get ana  
See "McKechnie report," pg. 24



**ELECT**

## Darcy Morrow



UNIT 4 – SAULT TRIBE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**COMMITTED - CARING - TRUSTWORTHY - STRAIGHTFORWARD**

*Waab Ish Kwa Me Gwun Ah Bay Kwe is my Anishinaabe name - White Eagle Feather Woman  
I am Migizi Dodem - Eagle Clan. I also honor my mother's side Mukwa Dodem - Bear Clan*

**I am a full-time board member. I do not have another job nor will I while elected. I am dedicated to you the members.  
I am the only current Board Member & candidate that has 10 years profitable Casino Management experience.**

### **PROVEN RESULTS – SOME ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR UNIT 4**

- \*New Community Center built on our Escanaba reservation.
- \*New 24-hour exercise facility next to Manistique Tribal Center.  
\*\*Watch for the grand openings for both of these facilities.\*\*
- \*Property & building purchased in Gladstone that now houses our Health Center and soon a 24-hour exercise facility.
- \*16 acres were purchased adjacent to the Escanaba reservation for an expansion of housing, etc.
- \*10 acres have been purchased adjacent to our Manistique reservation for an expansion of housing.
- \*4 new homes were built on the Escanaba reservation.
- \*Free transportation (Manistique Transit & Delta Transit) to and from our Health Centers.
- \*24-hour Urgent Care Access in Manistique, Escanaba & Marquette County.
- \*Expansion to Elder meal program – home delivered meals now offered to our homebound elders.

- \*Brought forward the Elder Outreach Worker positions to help Elders in their homes with applications, services, etc.
- \*Brought forward the elder handicapped ramp program to help them have easier access into their homes.
- \*Held successful monthly cultural teachings in Manistique, Escanaba and Gwinn areas.
- \*Brought back the UP Escanaba State Fair free children's wrist band giveaway.
- \*Brought the Youth Development Fund back for ex. any sports, drivers training, musical instruments, etc.
- \*Advocated for language classes to be held around Unit 4. Due to covid they are now available online at:  
[www.saulttribe.com/membership-services/culture/language-department](http://www.saulttribe.com/membership-services/culture/language-department) or contact the culture dept. at 906-635-6050 for information.
- \*Pearson's Asbestos Abatement company was purchased in Escanaba a profitable company.

### **SOME GOALS TO WORK ON NEXT!**

- \*Have been working with health staff on an expansion to the Manistique Health Centers dental department and pharmacy department to include a drive thru.
- \*Continue to advocate for a mobile dental RV to expand services.
- \*Support physical therapy being added at new exercise facility.
- \*Will continue to advocate for more homes to be built throughout Unit 4 by housing.
- \*Support restoring the elder recreation funds.
- \*Continue to support Elders mentoring the youth.
- \*Support a Western end cultural camp be established.
- \*Support the tax agreement to include all 1836 treaty area.
- \*Support student loan forgiveness thru a Tribal work recruitment initiative.
- \*Support more funding for Higher Education, Vocational Technical & on the job training.
- \*Continue to support diversification for a new revenue stream to provide services.
- \*Support a Midjim in Unit 4 – tribal gas station.
- \*Support all team members getting a raise not a select few.

**I support changes to our constitution. We need a separation of powers so tribal members have a standing in tribal court against the board! I support elections for our Chief Judge, Chief of Police, and Tribal prosecutor.**

I have been involved with our tribe my whole life. I have volunteered for Pow Wows and Children's Christmas parties for 30 years. I have helped take care of our ancestors at Indian Point Cemetery in Nahma, MI for 20 years. I have been on the Tribes enrollment committee for 8 years. I was a member of the Tribal Action Committee (TAC) for the Center of Disease Control and Prevention for 6 years. During that time, I testified several times on our tribe's behalf. I have participated in rallies for MMIR, Water protection rights in the Straits area and Environmental Protection at Presque Isle Park in Marquette, etc.

I have long advocated for our treaty rights. I have subsistence fished and hunted my whole life. I do not agree with our Inland or Great Lakes Consent Decrees! I attended hours of internal fishing meetings, talking to our fishers and hours of reading. I attended every Fishing Decree negotiation meeting and the court case. I am looking out for our next 7 generations to help maintain our treaty rights and services.

**I would like to Thank you the members for allowing me to serve and represent you.**

**I would appreciate your support and vote in the general election.**

**We need board members with institutional knowledge and a history of being involved and fighting for your rights and needs.**

Chi Miigwech Darcy

**CONTACT INFORMATION: [Darcymorrowforunit4@yahoo.com](mailto:Darcymorrowforunit4@yahoo.com) PHONE: (906) 298-1888**

Darcy Morrow endorses this ad.

# Change is difficult but necessary for growth

From "McKechnie report," pg. 23

- lytics in a timely manner.
- We need to enhance business reporting options to get an accurate view of the revenue wellness across the spectrum of services rendered by the health system. Currently, with the lack of reports, it's difficult to understand the financial wellness of the health care systems.
- We need to determine the best practices for reducing the large amount of outstanding accounts receivable. To date, we have never seen any type of reports that depict the amount of outstanding revenues.

- We need to analyze provider schedules, visit process and flow, support staff and duties, and the current documentation process. Our providers average seven visits per day; the national average in Indian Country is 16 visits per day per provider.
- We need develop and implement a plan for phased increases in productivity and visits. We also need to incorporate productivity as a part of performance reviews and some type of bonus compensation.

I have only touched on a few of the needed changes within our healthcare systems. We all know that change is difficult but nec-

essary. In order for us to be successful as a tribe and provide the absolute best healthcare for all of our citizens, these reforms must be implemented. As I've mentioned before, healthcare reform takes time, and these steps will take years to implement. For me it's about setting goals for the health team, with achievable time frames that set our tribe up for success, and moving towards these goals is in the best interest for all of our citizens.

Since I have been on the board, the most alarming thing that is happening in our tribe is the apparent lack of general business practices throughout the tribe. For example, in 2019 the tribe purchased a hotel

in Christmas, Mich., called White Pines Lodge. The funds to purchase this business were obtained by the tribe loaning \$3 million to the tribe's EDC. To date, the EDC has not been able to make any loan payments back to the tribe because this business has been operating at a loss since it was purchased in 2019. I would like to point out that this business could have been purchased some years prior for a lot less money, which is said to be in the neighborhood of \$600,000. Another poor business decision was to place this business under the EDC umbrella, which lacks lodging industry experience to operate these types of businesses. Therefore, I will

be sponsoring a resolution to transfer this business under the Kewadin umbrella and operated as such.

In closing, by the time you read this article, the Primary Election will here and gone. The General Election will be heating up with each candidate expressing their views on different aspects of tribe. As with all elections, people will be using buzz words to garner your vote. Please fact check their views and ask questions before you vote on the future of the tribe.

Respectfully,  
Isaac McKechnie  
Unit 1 Director  
(906) 440-6661  
imckechnie@saulttribe.net

## Director Causley-Smith discusses board issues



LANA CAUSLEY-SMITH,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT II

Reminder — we are limited to 500, so with that, I hope this reports finds you all well and getting ready for the new starts

of spring time.

There are a couple items I feel the need to report as there have been communications with made up history and I simply can't let that be...

We are in the process of renovating our casino in Sault Ste Marie. The board has allocated over \$10 million to this project in the last year. It's been stated the the casino has been left to sit and no maintenance or capitol work has been done — this is untruthful. I confirmed with the tribe's CFO, who totaled the amount to be close to us funding around \$31 million to capitol outlay to the casinos in the past five years. This truthful information can be verified to the members with our Internal Services — like the CFO.

The past leadership didn't have millions of COVID funds to allocate, so we had to balance the funds from revenue and internal coffers. We have five casinos to maintain and it's been a struggle to weigh our funds for upgrade, compensation for salaries, new endeavors, and, of course, services for the members. I wanted to set the record straight with the facts — the past did NOT simply ignore the needs, it came with financial decisions that had to be made without millions of extra dollars in COVID relief.

I do support upgrades but also recognize and consider we need fiscal comparisons and future plans for all our tribe's needs.

I'm happy to announce that

our tribe along with Bay Mills Indian Community took part in a roundtable input session with leadership from both respective tribes. We met with First Lady Jill Biden, Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff,

Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Bryan Newland, Tribal Advisor to the OMB Director, Liz Molle-Carr, gave us the opportunity to remind and educate about our needs as well as tell our distinguished story to them about our health care needs. Thank you too all the staff that helping in any way for this discussion.

We have asked that our Facility Department assess both the Newberry and Hessel powwow arbors. This year we will be renovating both arbors

for our powwows. This work should be complete by the time we host our gatherings this summer.

The atmosphere on the board is increasingly hostile and some behaviors are simply unacceptable. Without going into details — as many can watch for yourself now as we livestream and then post the meetings on our website — I am working on legislation and code to protect team members and other colleagues from hostile work atmosphere. Enough is enough.

If you would like to meet or discuss an issues, give input or just need me, always reach out: lcausley@saulttribe.net, (906) 322-3818.

Baamaapii,  
Lana Causley -Smith

## First Lady and Second Gentleman visit EUP tribes



MICHAEL MCKERCHIE,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

For many of you that have been reading my unit reports, you know I mention how ultra-political things are in our tribe right now. Besides the not standing together and fighting the right fights, our political environment makes a difficult to get things accomplished. Oftentimes managers feel they need to tell the board what they want to hear rather than what we need to hear. The politics of the day guide many of our decisions and it's often difficult to get good advice when those reporting to us only tell us what we want to hear.

There is some hope that the proposed Code of Ethics will help combat this. I don't agree with all aspects of it but it is only in draft form and is being posted online

for members to review. I urge members comment on it, bring it to the board attention and let us know your thoughts. The difficulty with any such code will be how it is enforced and if it will be equally applied to all. Only time will tell us on that, I look forward to hearing from the members on this issue.

Our tribe and neighboring sister tribe, Bay Mills Indian Community recently hosted the First Lady Jill Biden and Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff for a health care listening session. Regardless of political views, it's not every day that tribes are fortunate to have a seat at the table and even less often hosting dignitaries in our own lands. I want to thank all the staff for their hard work making this happen with very little time to prepare. All-in-all the event went over very well and we had an engaged dialogue. I also want to thank our Health staff as they received compliments for their "top notch service" from the White House Tribal Advisor (OMB) Liz Molle-Carr (who also happens to be a Sault Tribe member). Good job to all those involved.

The First Lady's visit was recorded and available to see on our Facebook page. As many of you know, we have a new videographer and he is doing amazing things with getting our meetings online as well as broadcasting

live. He is doing a great job and I look forward to other changes our Communications department can bring to get even more members involved.

And finally, I want to congrat-

ulate all the high schoolers graduating this month including my daughter Ella. Way to go!

I urge members to continue to get involved, always get both sides of the story, and continue to

hold the board accountable with your voices. Please reach out to me to discuss these issues or any issues, I can be reached at (906) 440-7768.

Chi Miigwech.

## Director Lee reports on Unit II



KIMBERLY LEE,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT II

Aanii,

I hope this message finds you in good health and high spirits.

With the arrival of graduation season, I want to extend my heartfelt best wishes to the seniors as they embark on new endeavors. May success and joy accompany you on your next journey.

Recently, I had the pleasure of

attending the Naubinway Elders meeting, where we enjoyed a delightful dinner and meaningful conversations after a long winter tucked away. As we look forward to warmer months, I am eager to spend more quality time together.

Excitement is building as we prepare for the upcoming powwow season, a time for our community to unite, celebrate, and heal. I hope to see many familiar faces at the various powwows throughout the season.

On a more serious note, it has come to our attention that several members have not received their ballots for the primary election. This is a concerning issue that needs to be addressed promptly. If you are among those who have not received a ballot, please get in touch with the Election Commission so they may record this and help with solutions moving forward.

Lastly, thank you to the Les Cheneaux Community Schools Tribal Youth Council for hosting the recent assembly with approximately 230 students and



staff in attendance. Our Unit 2 drum Muckwa Giizhik and talented youth drummers jumped in and shared their gifts. It was a heartwarming day filled with drumming, singing, dancing, music, speakers and smiles. Chi miigwech to everyone who made it a memorable and special occasion for all. Especially our elder drummers.

Miigwech, for your time.  
Kimberly Lee  
Unit 2 Board of Director  
Klee@saulttribe.net  
(906) 379-8965

# Is the board above the law? Not if I can help it!



**BETTY FREIHEIT,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

Hello Tribal Members,  
In 2020, with federal funds flooding the tribe to deal with the pandemic, the board authorized a Pandemic Task Force with

broad authority to get the funds out to the members, like relief checks and enhanced programs and services to serve our people when they needed it the most. Let me make clear, that both Austin Lowes and I insisted on a check and balance with the chairperson having to "concur" with whatever decisions were made. Not having the chairperson's concurrence would make such spending unlawful.

Spending federal funds for personal reasons, for franking privileges for certain board members (presumably to gain political support) and spending over \$50,000 in doing so is a federal offense. Spending less than \$50,000 outside of policy is potentially a tribal criminal offense for which there is no

statue of limitations such that any such bad acts are punishable no matter if you are a board member or not.

With respect to housing relief, the tribal board indicated support for establishing a program to help with temporary housing. For a board member to direct the EDC Director of who you wanted selected and to gift a trailer outside of any known eligibility criteria would likely be criminal.

At a recent tribal board meeting, I placed an item on the agenda to launch an investigation to get to the bottom of if a trailer was purchased to benefit a board member outside of any known criteria. This might seem like old news but most recently, we discovered that indeed a modular unit (currently located in Unit 2),

was purchased outside of policy.

From communications from Chairperson Payment at the time, purchases of over \$50,000 appear to have been made through checks cut below \$30,000 [presumably to avoid detection by the chair's office, the CFO's office, and the tribal board].

In an email from Oct. 27, 2020 (with current permission of the sender), Chairperson Payment addressed this issue by cautioning the board ahead of time by saying, "So it will be interesting to see if [EDC Director] caves to individual requests and starts handing out homes like an episode of the Oprah Winfrey show"... you get a trailer, you get a trailer.

This was reported to the

board at the time, at which time an investigation was done and concluded, "gross violations of policy." While the old board is well aware of this, only Austin and I took these findings seriously. Now it appears like the pieces of the puzzle have come together such that an independent investigation of the Department of Interior Solicitor is warranted to shift liability from the tribe to anyone who benefitted from such violations of policy or law. No one should be above the law!

Please keep yourself and family safe. Help your neighbors anytime you can. And please look out for our elders.

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

## Director Sorenson discusses Unit III, tribal issues



**BRIDGETT SORENSON,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

I was honored that St. Ignace was the host for the MMIW event on May 5. We had a very good

turnout.

I went to Washington D.C. May 13-17 for my yearly in-person HUD TIAC meeting. Our group has been working hard this past year and this has led to a \$33 million increase to \$1.1 billion in funding. This is merely to get us to the 1999 level of funding with inflation. That increase that tribes get will not do us much good because the cost to build houses across the country has doubled and tripled in costs since COVID, but it is a start. This group has really brought forward the struggles in Indian Country and with the tours of tribe's reservations, they see the quality and lack of sufficient housing first hand.

HUD's current estimate is that Indian Country is short over

68,000 houses for our people. Our tribe currently needs another 2,500 low income houses. Another issue is using the U.S. census instead of our enrollment numbers to reflect actual need.

Enrollment has almost 4,000 new applications and have so far given out almost 600 cards. Please continue to be patient as they follow the process.

Congratulations to all the high school and college graduates. Education is the one thing that no one can take from you. I gave my annual scholarships to Carson Yoder and Joceyln Convery, who are both pursuing careers in the medical field. Hopefully, they will come back and work for their tribe someday. Please remember to look at saulttribe.com under

the Education Department to apply for scholarships and grants.

On May 18 we had our annual cleanup at the Wequayoc Cemetery. The tribe does a great job with grass cutting so we scrub headstones and throw away old and broken flowers and stuff and place flags on the veteran graves. We had a nice potluck as well. Thank you to all who attended!

Also, on Saturday, we had our last workshop until fall. Cody Jodoin came down to teach drumstick making. Everyone had a great time and made beautiful drumsticks.

There has been much talk and agenda items surrounding Sault Tribe Incorporated, and I really wish it all could be exposed to the public. Unfortunately, this is

probably going to hurt this arm of our tribe and it really upsets me. This was our opportunity to bring in millions for the tribe with 8a contracting with very qualified staff. I wish I could say how this will all end but from what has been going on these last two years, I don't think it will be good. I am not able to say much.

Our judge has resigned, the Elder Division director retired and Candace Blocher, our tax office person, will be retiring in June as well. I wish them all well! We are struggling to fill our CIO position and so many other positions, including doctors. Our people deserve better!

Any concerns please feel free to contact me.

## Director Morrow thanks community members



**DARCY MORROW,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV**

I would like to announce our annual clean up at Indian Point cemetery in Nahma was a huge success! Chi Miigwech to Judy Hansen, Joan Miller, Kelly & Randy Hatinger, Ernie & Pam Demmon, Jeanne Kennedy, Kathy & John Perkins, Monica, Emery & Trevor Rochefort, Abe Bouley, Betty Majestic, Tess Brazeau, Nina Sutter, and Lou Dougherty & Ken Tufnell for all your hard work! Chi Miigwech to Beau Rochefort, Brandon Brown, and Christian Aldrich, the casino maintenance staff, for all their help and hard work. Miigwech for the lunch and drinks provided from the Manistique casino staff and to Betty Majestic for her homemade delicious chocolate bars. It was a beautiful day to honor our ancestors!

I attended the Sault Tribe's Advocacy Resource Centers

MMIR – Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives - No More Stolen Natives – rally and walk in St Ignace on May 5. I used to live in St. Ignace when I was the Shores Casinos General Manager. It was so nice to catch up with members, past and current employees, and Director Sorenson. Some I haven't seen in quite a while. This event really hits home for me and my family. I was also there to honor my little cousin Sidney Neadow, 28 years old, who was taken too early from us on March 31, 2020. Time will never take away our hurt, but we need to keep spreading awareness. Before the walk, it was announced they would like to move it around and next year they may hold the event in Manistique. I told them absolutely we would love to have it next year!

The board amended Chapter 21 Hunting and Inland Fishing to include cast nets now as a way of fishing. Before the 2007 Inland decree stated handnet but did not spell out cast net. And unfortunately, one of our fishers contacted me saying he was being harassed for using a cast net that has a handle. So, I made the inquiries for the member, and we were able to get it to the Conservation Committee where it was passed and then it came to the board table where it was also passed. Questions, please contact Sault Tribe Law Enforcement (906) 635-6065.

I attended the First Lady and

Second Gentleman's visit this past month. I feel these meetings are not genuine. If they really let us have open dialog, I have a lot of issues I would love to talk with them about. A few examples – why did the federal government not stand up with us against the state on our Great

Lakes fishing consent decree. Why does the federal government continue to allow invasive species to be brought in by large vessels dumping their ballast water into our Great Lakes with no cleanup plan as our fishers' livelihoods continue to get devastated. What are they doing to help us find our

MMIR or putting their perpetrators away?

If you have any questions, please call me.

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

## Borowicz discusses the issues



**SHAWN BOROWICZ,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

Aanii,

Hope all is well with your families and that your enjoying the beginning of summer. I hope a lot of you that live downstate had the opportunity to commute to New Boston to interact with some of our medical staff and to tour our property while there. This property needs to be developed and open for our members who reside in that part

of Michigan before it deteriorates any further.

The election is in full swing and it seems this process is no better than any other we've had in the past. We still have missing mailed ballots, numerous election complaints and the cost is way more than two years ago. A big thank you to the volunteer Election Commission and our attorney Ryan for taking on this thankless task.

If I could give my thoughts on the issue of our business Sault Tribe Incorporated (STI). This business was enacted by the tribe and the federal government to secure various contracts in local, state and federal agencies that would eventually funnel profits back to the tribe to benefit our programs and members. The charter was done this way to keep the tribal board and its politics out of its business. Our online gaming and Lume business was put under this corporation to get them needed revenue to then hire experienced executives who

would eventually go after lucrative federal government contracts. This seemed to be working as proposed and the STI board has secured those federal contracts and is going after more, which in turn will bring revenue to the tribe. Sure, the tribe could have managed the online gaming and Lume by itself but my understanding was we were trying to grow a corporation for years to come and keep the politics out of STI.

We are now managing online gaming and Lume through tribal operations and both seem to be profitable and STI is managing without them. It seems as the politics did get involved in this corporation and hopefully we will work through this and keep STI in place to further get more contracts that will benefit our members.

Until next time and looking forward to seeing you at the summer happenings.

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

# Director LaPlaunt provides updates to Unit V



**TYLER LAPLAUNT**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT V

Aanii, Boozhoo,  
We are almost through the end of May and although mostly rainy, we've had quite a beautiful start to an early summer as of late. Unfortunately, ticks are out in full force and very bad this year, at least in the central U.P., so be safe when practicing your treaty rights or simply out enjoying Mother Nature. Make sure to check yourself, your little ones, and your four-legged friends for any unwanted hitchhikers. Stay safe out there and enjoy the beautiful weather.

Update on open enrollment. As of May 18, 2024, there have been 3,923 applications entered into the tracking system. These are adults only. They enrolled 78 members this week. To date, they have enrolled 714 members since Feb. 1, 2024, including children, and 14 applications have been denied. This is a tenuous process for our Enrollment Department, and they will continue to do their due diligence to ensure that only those applicants who can properly trace lineage are enrolled. Chi miigwech to our entire Enrollment Department for all of their hard work.

I'd like to congratulate all of the Sault Tribe high school graduates heading into the summer as they make decisions on their future. Whether you take care of your family, join the military, enter the workforce, or enter into a trade school or university, do the best job you can, regardless of what you're doing. I fully support the betterment of our tribal communities and that starts with each of us individually. If, at any time, any of you need a letter of recommendation, please do not hesitate to reach out. I would gladly support anyone trying to strengthen themselves, their careers, and ultimately the future of our tribe.

I want to also give a huge shoutout to Cindy Reimer, Carol Horne, and Kim Swanberg in Munising for hosting a graduation ceremony at the Munising Tribal Health Center. It was our first year back post pandemic and they did an amazing job taking care of the event and making it a great celebration of our 10 Sault Tribe graduates from Munising High. We are all so proud of all of our youth and seeing the families in attendance to support these new graduates was heartwarming to say the least. Great work everyone and best of luck to you all in the future.

On another note, while we weren't able to get a Powwow Committee together in Munising



Photo by Tina Moses

## Teal Lake Singers at NMU 2024 Spring Commencement.

for a summer powwow, Cindy and Carol are working together to host a youth powwow at the Munising Ice Arena around September. They are looking for as many volunteers as they can get to help make this another amazing event. If you have the time or ability, please reach out to Carol Horne at (906) 387-2103, ext. 1067, or carol.horne@mps-up.com or Cindy Reimer at (906) 635-7010 or creimer@saulttribe.net. Every helping hand we can get would be greatly appreciated.

Bi-annually, I have been providing a verbal report to our Unit 5 Elder committees of where the Spring and Fall 2% monies have been allocated for our area. At the request of multiple members, I will make sure to publish those selections moving forward. As you may have heard or read, our 2% distributions continue to climb and we had the highest percentage increase of any tribe in Michigan due to our increased revenue over the past year. Let's pray that our tribe continues in this positive direction to both enhance and sustain our tribe and support the communities in which we reside through our 2% distributions.

Spring 2024 2% allocations are as follows:

Total 2% Distribution to Unit 5 = \$78,083.22

Munising/Alger Area:

Munising Title VI = \$11,876 (Full Funding)

Senior Services = \$7,000 (Full Funding)

Ice Arena = \$2,500 (Partial Funding)

Munising Bay Trail Network = \$7,500 (Full Funding)

Noquemenon Valley Spur Trail Grooming Equipment = \$10,165.61 (Partial Funding)

Total 2% Munising/Alger = \$39,041.61

Marquette Area:

Children's Museum = \$5,000

(Full Funding)

Maritime Museum = \$5,000

(Full Funding)

MAPS Title VI = \$10,000

(Full Funding)

Camp New Day = \$6,450

(Full Funding)

Community Action Alger Marquette Home Delivered Meals = \$7,000 (Partial Funding)

Superior Watershed =

\$5,591.61 (Partial Funding)

Total 2% Marquette Area = \$39,041.61

Culture night is still running strong in Marquette. We host culture night at the Lakeview Arena Citizens Forum the 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month from 5:30 – 8 p.m. Everyone is welcome and dinner is provided. We're still seeing new faces every time we host, so if you're curious, just show up and don't be shy. We are all here for each other. It's truly an amazing time.

It would be a dream to get the same thing set up in the Munising Area, we just need someone to help take the lead. If you or anyone you know is interested, please reach out so we can get this started. We can also do a specific cultural work-

shop or teaching. Just let us know so that we can support our people and communities. We had a wonderful presentation from James Paquette on a historical site he helped excavate, and I'd like to work to get him down to Munising for another presentation. It is well worth the time and an amazing story.

I'd like to also take this opportunity to provide yet another shoutout to TJ Derwin and the Teal Lake Singers. Due to TJ's leadership with Drum Group, we expanded into a large enough group for two drums, and then some. This has allowed TJ and us to commit to multiple event requests throughout our communities without putting too much demand on any one person, other than TJ. The Teal Lake Singers have been getting a slew of new requests including opening up for community events, basketball tournaments, retirement homes, DJ Jacobetti home for Veterans, NMU commencement, Munising High School graduation, and many others. Chi miigwech to TJ and all of his hard work and leadership at the drum and another chi miigwech for every-

one who took the step to join us for Culture night.

The next Unit 5 Elder Meeting and Meal in Munising will be held on Thursday, June 6, 2024, at the Munising Tribal Health Center from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. All you need to do to participate is be a Unit 5 Elder aged 60+.

The next Unit 5 Elder Meeting and Meal in Marquette will be held on Thursday, June 6, 2024, at the Holiday Inn of Marquette from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. All you need to do to participate is be a Unit 5 or surrounding Unit 4 Elder aged 60+.

If you have any questions, comments, or would just like to discuss something with me, please use my contact information below. You can also reach out to Unit 4/5 Liaison Mary Jenerou at MJenerou@saulttribe.net or (906) 450-7011 or (906) 341-8469.

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

## Sault Tribe Member Newspaper Subscription Form

To receive a FREE tribal newspaper subscription in the mail, tribal members under 60 are asked to complete the form below and send it to: Win Awenen Nisitotung, 531 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie MI 49783, or email it to slucas@saulttribe.net. Those 60 and over do not have to fill out this form. Those who prefer to get their newspaper online do not have to complete this form.

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# Director Hampton reports on Unit IV matters



**KIMBERLY HAMPTON,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV**

Aniin kina waya (hello everybody). The warm season is now upon us and I send well wishes to you all. I hope that you all have an event filled spring and summer season. I would like to openly welcome all to keep an eye out for additional activities in the Manistique and Escanaba locations as our new fitness center and community centers begin to open. When the time is appropriate there will be grand openings for these facilities so stay tuned for those announcements.

**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: Wednesday, June 19, 2024 at 7 p.m. EST; Meeting ID: (906) 440 8138; Password: KimHampton

**Powwow Meetings**

Throughout the upcoming year there will be regularly scheduled powwow meetings to keep the committee on task. **SAVE THE DATE** for the 2024 Niiwin Noodin Powwow scheduled for June 8, 2024.

Powwow meetings are sched-

uled as follows:

June 3, 2024 at 5 p.m., Manistique Tribal Center, 5698W US 2, Manistique, 49854

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.

**Maamawi (together) Craft Night**

The next open Maamawi Craft Night is scheduled for Thursday, June 20, 2024, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. EST at the Manistique Tribal Health Center, 5698W US Highway 2, Manistique.

There are no skills required to join. Bring a project to work on, work on a group project, or just come to socialize. There will be miscellaneous crafting supplies to get us started. Everyone is encouraged to bring their own snacks and drinks. Everyone is welcome to participate; open to the public.

**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 Manistique will be held June 5, 2024 at 12 p.m. EST at the Manistique Tribal Center.

The next meeting in Escanaba will be held June 5, 2024, at 5 p.m. EST at the Delta County Chamber Building.

**April/May Activities**

Tribal Homeland Security Advisory Council (THSAC): Myself and the rest of THSAC are currently taking a breather after our first assignment and briefing.

Manistique Fitness Center and Escanaba Community Center: The Manistique Fitness Center project has begun and is making great progress. The Escanaba Community Center project has made a lot of progress. Throughout the month of April and May there were regular prog-

ress meetings between all parties involved in both projects. I look forward to seeing the completion of both of these projects in the next month. Sault Tribe is currently actively seeking candidates for open positions at these two locations so please visit the Sault Tribe website, employment section.

Manistique Dental and Pharmacy Expansion: There are plans beginning to expand the Manistique Dental and Pharmacy departments to allow for more dental operatories, update dental equipment, attain a mobile Dental unit, and expand the Pharmacy department to allow for efficiency and add a drive through Pharmacy. There are currently limited updates to provide as the team is working with the consulting firm Bluestone with budgets, plans, etc. More updates on these projects will be provided as the projects progress.

**Community Events April/May:**

March 12- Board workshop; board Meeting

March 13- Attended Manistique Elder meeting and Escanaba Elder meeting

March 14- Attended an update meeting on Manistique Fitness Center and Escanaba Community Center

April 23- Kewadin Gaming Authority meeting, board workshop and board meeting

April 24- Attended workshop with Bluestone; attended National

Institute of Health Tribal Advisory Committee meeting

April 25- Attended progress meeting for Manistique Fitness Center and Escanaba Community Center

April 26- Participated in key employee interviews

April 30- Attended board workshop

May 1- Attended the Environmental Protection Agency’s Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights meeting

May 2- Attended a Line 5 meeting

May 3- Met with a community stakeholder

May 6- Attended Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow meeting

May 7- Attended board workshop and meeting

May 9- Participated in the Manistique High School CTE Awards Ceremony and distributed Native Scholarship; attended NABS webinar; participated in a meeting at the Manistique

Tribal Health Center with Food Sovereignty Committee members and staff regarding a community garden; attended The National Tribal Caucus and EPA’s Tribal Climate Town Hall meeting

May 10- Attended and participated in a private tribal ceremony

May 13- Attended Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow Committee Meeting

May 14- Attended board workshop

May 15- Participated in a

White House call for the First Lady’s visit; attended Election Commission meeting, monthly tribal caucus meeting, and monthly state tribal team meeting

May 16- Held cultural event making moccasins

May 17- Participated in key employee interviews and a conversation with the First Lady and Second Gentleman

May 20- Attended Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow Committee Meeting; attended Board Special Hearing regarding STI; participated in the U of M Honoring Article XVI

**Looking Forward**

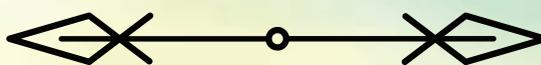
I look forward to re-engaging with members during Katchup with Kim sessions, attending Maamawi Craft Nights, planning the 2024 Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow as well as moving forward on goals I have for Unit 4 and working with the rest of the board of directors to move Sault Tribe forward toward unity and growth.

Chi Miigwech for allowing me to represent and advocate for our members. I am always available for questions, comments, and ideas for growth. I encourage members to participate in Maamawi Craft Nights, the Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow meetings and all other activities and events occurring throughout Indian Country. My number is (906) 440-8138, email is KHampton@saulttribe.net.

Kimberly Hampton,  
Unit 4 Representative

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# 30<sup>TH</sup>

## Anniversary

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Hot Seat Draws 1 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Win prizes, credits or up to \$500 CASH

GRAND PRIZE CASH DRAWS 9:30 P.M. - 11 P.M.

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Champagne, Cake and Hors d'oeuvres  
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Must earn 50 base points to qualify. See Northern Rewards Club or Register and for more details.

**30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**  
JUNE 1 - JUNE 28



All customers receive one FREE entry for the Grand Prize drawing. Earn additional entries all month.

GRAND PRIZE NIGHT • JUNE 28



**HOT SEAT DRAWS**  
2 p.m. - 9:15 p.m.  
Hors D'oeuvres  
Served at 7 p.m.\*

GRAND PRIZE DRAW  
**10 P.M.**  
**WIN AN**  
**AXIS 500**  
**4X4 UTV**

MANISTIQUE • ST. IGNACE • SAULT STE. MARIE • HESSEL • CHRISTMAS

See Northern Rewards Club or Register and for more details. Must register for this event. Must earn 50 base points to be eligible for Hot Seat Draws, and each additional entry. \*While supplies last.

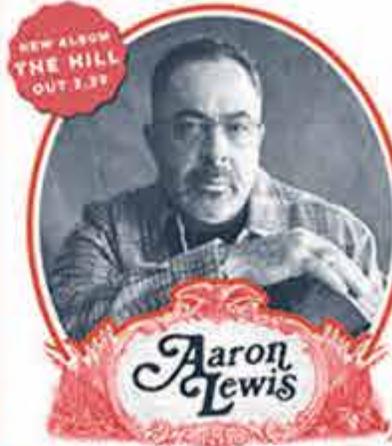
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