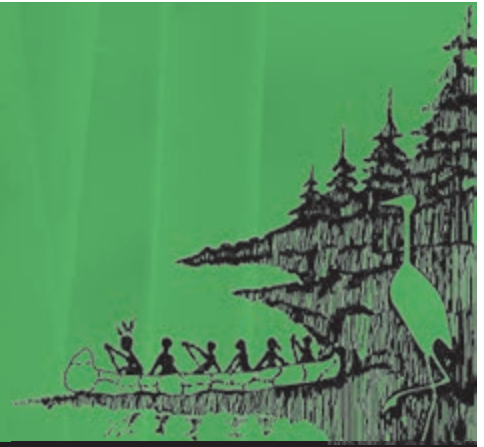




Win Awenen Nisitotung

May 13, 2026 • Vol. 47 No. 5
Waaskoone Giizis
Flower Moon



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

Primary winners move forward to general

BY SCOTT BRAND
Three incumbents survived the April 30 primary while two others came up short in their bid for re-election to the Sault Tribe Board of Directors.



In Unit I, incumbents Robert McRorie and Isaac McKechnie led the way with 987 and 891 votes, respectively. Lori Jump secured a third-place finish tallying 801 votes while Ashley

Gravelle came in fourth place with 755 as both earned the right to appear on the general election ballot. Betty Freiheit finished fifth with 750 votes falling six votes shy of qualifying for the general election followed by Jennifer McLeod-Tyson at 528 and Suzanne Caskey with 280.

In Unit II, Incumbent Kimberly Lee led the field with 280 votes, while Dean Hyslop Sr. finished in

second with 270 votes. Both will appear on the general election ballot. Jacqueline Minton finished in third with 196 votes followed by Sara Archer with 73 as both were eliminated in the primary.

In Unit III, incumbent Shawn Borowicz finished a distant third with 294 votes in the primary and will not appear on the general election ballot. Fred Paquin led the way with 417 votes, followed by Sue St. Onge with 395 setting the stage for their upcoming

showdown., John Rickely and Geraldine Brow were eliminated with 241 and 157 votes, respectively.

In Unit IV, incumbent Kimberly Hampton finished in third place with 264 votes and will not appear on the general election ballot. Abbielle Hoholik and Cole Goudreau will square off in the next round of balloting, securing 373 and 301 votes, respectively.

In Unit V, there were only two

candidates who filed paperwork, incumbent Tyler LaPlaunt and challenger Rita Glyptis, and as a result primary balloting was deemed unnecessary as they both will appear on the general election ballot.

There is a May 5 deadline for contesting primary election results.

Ballots for the general election are slated to be mailed out on May 21, and must be returned by the June 25 deadline to be counted.

MMIWR honored and remembered on May 5

FROM THE ADVOCACY RESOURCE CENTER

Each year on May 5, we remember and honor our Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives (MMIWR). For many, the red dresses, the marches, the prayers, vigils, and stories bring a painful but necessary light to the ongoing crisis facing our Native relatives. But for our families and communities, this is not just for one day of the year but every day.

Over the past few years, we have seen some progress. On the federal level, we have passed Savanna's Act and Operation Lady Justice, which were created to raise awareness of our MMIR and improve communication and coordination among tribal, federal, and state agencies. However, legislation alone cannot heal the wound or stop the violence. We need your help.

Tribes still face jurisdictional barriers that limit their ability to investigate or prosecute certain crimes committed on their land, especially when a non-Native perpetrator is involved. Among other issues is a lack of funding for our tribal justice systems. They lack the resources to pursue the thousands of missing and

murdered cases, and lastly, a lack of accurate data and reporting. Many of our relatives are still misclassified, overlooked, or go unreported. But why is that?

Shaylee Terrell, in an article on the Stop the Hurt website, wrote, "A big reason the media ignore Indigenous issues is due to the repeated dehumanization and stereotyping of Native people. Indigenous people, throughout all American history, have been turned into spectacles, becoming mascots for sports games, costumes for Halloween, and the subjects of many tattoo designs. Our medicines, such as white sage, and our sacred items, such as dreamcatchers, have been appropriated by those who don't understand how important they are to us. Modern views of Indigenous people have caused movements like MMIW to be seen as "Indian issues" that aren't worth the time to explore. These attitudes fuel the urge of the country at large to turn a blind eye, as it's not affecting people they deem worthy of help."

The Advocacy Resource Center (ARC) believes that our community and culture are our medicine. While we continue to advocate for change at the federal



Yvonne Renee (Jones) Scott (then 31 years old) disappeared from Wyoming, Mich., on Jan. 3, 2004. Scott was last seen at approximately 11 p.m. in the 2900 block of Clyde Park Avenue southwest in Wyoming. That day, she called the police to report that two people had robbed her. Officers went to the scene and took an incident report. Scott left afterward and began walking eastbound on 28th Street. She has never been heard from again.

and state levels, we also think significant changes can occur here, in our hometowns and communities. What does that look like?

We must look out for one another. We must support our survivors of intimate partner violence and assist them with their needs to prevent revictimization. We need to educate our youth about their worth and the value of others. We need to model healthy relationship behaviors for our youth. We must empower young girls to speak up and not settle for unhealthy relationship behaviors. We must reclaim our culture and traditions because Native Americans are not naturally vio-

lent people. We are kind, loving, and good to our women and Two-Spirit individuals. Violence is NOT our tradition.

You don't have to work in advocacy to make a difference. You can help your community by sharing the stories of missing and murdered individuals in your area. Speak their names and keep their spirits alive. Continue to remember them and let everyone know that their lives mattered. You can also support families of missing and murdered individuals by donating to a memorial fund, lending a listening ear, and attending events in honor of our MMIR.

ARC hosts an MMIR event

each year to promote awareness of our stolen relatives. Recently, ARC has been hosting the event in different communities to raise awareness in each of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians' seven counties.

In 2024, ARC hosted the MMIR event in St. Ignace, Mich., with a powerful march down State Street. St. Ignace has since begun its own march and plans to continue the tradition. Last year, the march was in Manistique, Mich., and it had a fantastic turnout. This year's March was in Newberry, Mich. Please know you do not have to wait for the ARC to come to your community; you can host an event independently. It does not take much to gather others together in one place, wear red, and stand for what you believe in. You can make signs, say prayers, and speak the names of your lost loved ones to show your support. It would be incredible to have every community unite in solidarity to honor our stolen relatives on May 5.

What else can you do? You can display a red dress in your yard. You can hang one or several; it is a powerful message and a great way to show your support. Seeing the visual representation of a life lost or stolen can make a vast difference. You can educate yourself on the warning signs of human trafficking and domestic and sexual violence. You can support survivors by donating to a local shelter and assisting with transportation, food, clothing, or whatever needs are lacking. Most importantly, we need to protect

See "MMIWR," on page 20

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New "elder check" procedure

The Sault Tribe Enrollment Department is introducing a new, streamlined process to claim your Elder Dividend check.

From Aug. 1, through Oct. 1, 2026, an online application portal will be available. Elders will be able to login and complete the process quickly and securely. Elder checks will be mailed in Jan. 2027.

This new system is designed to reduce processing time, lower administrative costs, and make the application process more efficient. It will also help eliminate issues such as lost or delayed forms.

As the rollout approaches, updates and additional details will be shared in the tribal newspaper and online at www.saulttribe.com.

For those who are unable to access the online portal, a paper application will continue to be mailed to the address we have on file.

If your address changes after submitting your application, whether online or by mail, you must contact the Enrollment Office to ensure your information is updated.

Tribe's USDA Food Program samples ground bison

BY SCOTT BRAND

The American buffalo or bison, was the featured guest at the Sault Tribe's USDA Distribution Facility on April 29, as Community Health Educator Cody McLaren put his culinary skills on display bringing a new twist to meat loaf.

"All of the ingredients used in this are available here," said Program Manager Jodi Thompson of the variety of goods available at the USDA distribution center, which provides nutritious foods to eligible low-income families across the 15-county service area.

The ground bison meat came from South Dakota, while the accompanying wild rice was trucked in from Minnesota.

Guests made quick work of the experience cleaning their plates on the first go-around with some even coming back for seconds. The leftover meat loaf, Thomson explained, would be fashioned into meatballs to serve as a sample dish for visitors in the days that followed.

Recipe sheets were also distributed so folks could replicate this experience at home to cook their own meatloaf, or they could try something new with recipes for ground bison stroganoff and bison and wild rice soup.

Community Health Education will continue to collaborate with the Sault Tribe USDA Food Distribution Program to bring classes incorporating traditional food knowledge and nutrition education in the future.



Above, left: Program Manager Jodi Thompson.



Above, right: Michelle Payment (left), Frank Killilps, Heidi Steinkohl with granddaughter Brooklyn McCall.



Bottom left: Barb Smutek (left), Danielle Zelenka and Kathryn Monday (right).



Right: Community Health Educator Cody McLaren mixing ingredients for bison meatloaf.

Photos by Scott Brand

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Committee vacancies — Sault Tribe volunteers needed!

The following Sault Tribe Committees have vacant seats or upcoming vacancies. Sault Tribe members interested in filling these vacancies should submit one letter of intent and three letters of recommendation (forms available online or contact Lona) from other members to Lona Stewart at lstewart2@saulttribe.net, 523 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783, or call (906) 635-6050.

Anishinaabe Cultural Tribal gas, cigarette discount locations

The following gas stations are offering discounts to Sault Tribe members.

Tribal owned gas stations offering gas and cigarette discounts:

- MidJim Convenience Store, 2205 Shunk Road, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
- MidJim Convenience Store, 3045 Mackinac Trail, St. Ignace, MI 49781
- White Pine Lodge and Convenience Store, 7889 E. W. M-28, Christmas, MI 49862

Tribal owned gas stations offering gas discount only:

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

Not tribal owned stations offering gas discounts only:

- Kinross BP, 4440 Tone Road, Kincheloe, MI 49788
- Cedar Pantry, 159 W. M-134, Cedarville, MI 49719
- Sunoco, 13975 M-28, Newberry, MI 49868
- Manistique Oil Company, 216 Deer Street, Manistique, MI 49854
- Carnes Eco Fuels, 2300 Ludington St., Escanaba, MI 49837

Addresses sought

Up to date members' addresses sought — Sault Tribe members whose addresses are not up to date have "bad addresses" with the tribe's Enrollment Department. Check the names on the list and if you see a friend or relative on the list let them know.

Go to 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.

Committee - One vacancy - male (4-year term)

Child Welfare Committee - Three vacancies - one 4-year term, one term expires November 2026, one expires May 2029

Conservation Committee - Commercial Fisher - One vacancy (current term expires May 2026)

Non-Commercial Fisher - One vacancy (current term expires May 2026)

Elder Advisory Committee

Unit I - Sault - Two regular vacancies (4-year terms); one alternate vacancy (4-year term)

Unit II - Newberry - One regular vacancy, term expires July 2029; one alternate vacancy (4-year term)

Unit III - St. Ignace - One regular vacancy - term expires October 2029; two alternate vacancies (4-year terms)

Unit IV - Manistique - One regular vacancy (4-year term)

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

Elder Subcommittees

Unit I - Sault - Three regular vacancies - one term expires September 2029, two 4-year terms

Unit II - Hessel - One alternate vacancy (4-year term)

Unit II - Naubinway - Two regular vacancies - one term expires May 2027, one 4-year term; one alternate vacancy (4-year term)

Unit II - Newberry - Two regular vacancies, one term expires March 2028, one 4-year term

Unit III - St. Ignace - One alternate vacancy - term expires March 2028

Unit IV - Escanaba - Four regular vacancies (4-year terms); one alternate vacancy (4-year term)

Unit IV - Manistique - Two

regular vacancies, one term expires November 2026, one 4-year term; one alternate vacancy, term expires March 2028

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

Unit V - Marquette - Four regular vacancies (4-year terms); one alternate vacancy (4-year term)

Food Sovereignty Committee - Three vacancies (4-year term)

Health Board - One vacancy (4-year term)

Sault Tribe Election

Commission - Three vacancies with terms expiring November 2030

Membership liaisons work to assist membership

Membership liaisons work to assist with membership issues and concerns. The liaisons will also respond to and follow up on membership issues to ensure they are resolved.

Sault Tribe members are

encouraged to contact liaisons when they need help with tribal issues by emailing membersconcerns@saulttribe.net or individually at the contacts below. Please note that although the liaisons are located at sites across the sev-

en-county service area, they serve all tribal members.

Michelle Moore
Available for in-person meetings at Sault Tribe Administration.
Phone: (906) 635-6050 Ext. 26359

Cell: (906) 259-3862
mmoore@saulttribe.net
Clarence Hudak
Lambert Center, St. Ignace, (906) 643-2124
chudak@saulttribe.net
Mary Jenerou
Manistique Tribal Center, (906) 341-8469
Munising Tribal Center, (906) 450-7011
mjenerou@saulttribe.net

Membership liaisons answer your questions

Q: *Is there a strategic plan available to the members of the tribe and if so, where would it be located?*

A: The Sault Tribe Board of Directors master plan is the only strategic plan that is available for the membership to view. This plan can be found on the Sault Tribe website under "Government-Board of Directors-Downloads." The website address is <http://www.saulttribe.com/government/board-of-directors/board-download-files>.

Q: *Will I be penalized if I break a dental appointment?*

A: A dental appointment is considered broken if a member is responsible for one of the following:


- Does not show up for the scheduled appointment.
- Cancels a scheduled appointment with less than 24 hours' notice.
- Arrives 15 minutes past the scheduled appointment time.

Please note that an exception may be made due to inclement weather or an unintended personal crisis. It is recommended to request a later morning/day appointment if traveling a long distance to the clinic.

A patient who breaks two appointments will not be allowed to schedule any further appointments for a year and will only be able to receive emergency care.


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

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



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

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



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

Sault Tribe Member Newspaper Subscription Form

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

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Win Awenen Nisitotung

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

May 13, 2026
Flower Moon
Waaskoone Giizis

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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NATIVE AMERICAN
FIRST NATIONS
JOURNALIST



SAULTTRIBE GUARDIAN.COM

Award-winning documentary follows Indigenous fight to bring ancestors home from museum shelves

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

For some Native American visitors, a museum is not a place to admire what hangs on the walls. It's a place to imagine what sits hidden behind them.

That unsettling perspective shapes "Aanikoobijigan," a new documentary by brothers Adam and Zack Khalil that took home the Audience Award in the NEXT section of the 2026 Sundance Film Festival. The film's Anishinaabemowin title translates roughly as ancestor, great-grandparent and great-grandchild — a single word that folds generations together and signals the weight of the story it tells.

At its core, the film follows one Michigan campaign to reclaim the remains of Indigenous ancestors still held inside American universities and museums. It also warns that many similar fights are still to come.

The Khalils, who are Ojibwe and grew up in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., spent roughly eight years on the project. Their mother, Anishinaabe scholar Alison Bouchard Krebs, devoted much of her career to questions of Indigenous control over ancestral remains and objects held by institutions, and her influence runs through the film.

"Aanikoobijigan" opens with a standoff between Michigan State University and the Michigan Anishinaabek Cultural Preservation



The upside-down crane gate at Wudjiwong, the Anishinaabek burial ground in Sault Ste. Marie overlooking the St. Marys rapids, was hand-hammered by local blacksmith Bill Morrison in 2005. The inverted crane honors the Crane Clan (Ajijaak) and signifies the site's connection to the spirit world.

and Repatriation Alliance, known as MACPRA, and closes with a reburial — a ceremony rarely captured on film. Because Native traditions forbid the visual depiction of ancestral remains, the Khalils rely on abstract animation and kaleidoscopic imagery rather than literal footage, a creative constraint that gives the film a quieter, more poetic visual language.

To explain how so many Indigenous remains ended up in institutional hands, the film reaches back more than two centuries. Thomas Jefferson, sometimes credited as the country's first archaeologist, dug into a burial mound in 1784 out of personal curiosity. One tribal member interviewed in the film argues that legacy is not one

to celebrate and draws a sharp line between the professional archaeologist and the common grave robber: the only real difference, he says, is a diploma.

The film traces how, across the late 19th and 20th centuries, universities and museums built ever-larger collections of Native bodies, often framed through the now-debunked race sciences of the era, including eugenics and phrenology, and used to argue the supposed inferiority of Indigenous peoples. Sam Redman, a historian at the University of Massachusetts, describes how Indigenous remains came to be treated as a vanishing resource to be gathered while the opportunity remained.

The Smithsonian Institution

eventually amassed what is believed to be the biggest store of human remains anywhere in the world, sometimes drawing from morgues and foreign governments as disease, forced displacement, and state violence devastated Native populations. In 2023, Smithsonian Secretary Lonnie G. Bunch publicly apologized for those practices.

Harvard's Peabody Museum still holds a significant collection. Its current director concedes on camera that the institution was wrong to withhold Native funerary objects when MACPRA requested their return. Tribal advocates argue that shifting public opinion and mounting legal claims are pressuring such institutions, though the film doesn't shy from showing how often repatriation requests are still met with resistance.

The Khalils also make room for levity. Jonnie "Jay" Sam II, a tribal historic preservation officer in Michigan, riffs on Hollywood's long habit of casting Native Americans as menacing figures — from classic Westerns to horror staples like "Poltergeist" and "Pet Sematary." The joke, he suggests, is that pop culture has already decided Native people are frightening in life and even more so in death, especially when their resting places have been lost.

For Blaire Morseay, a citizen of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians and an archivist and asso-

ciate professor at Michigan State University, the film's purpose is to move the conversation away from Western linear timelines and toward something older and more durable: relationship — with place, with community and with those who came before.

That tension — between exhibiting and returning, between cataloging and honoring — gives the film its paradoxical core. The directors can't show the ancestors whose journeys they are tracing. They can only show what it looks like to bring them home, from the cold storage of institutional shelves back into the soil of tribal land.

Legal protection for Native graves in the United States is relatively recent. Not until the passage of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act in 1990, commonly called NAGPRA, did federal law formally recognize tribes' rights to reclaim ancestral remains and sacred objects. Recent revisions to the statute have tightened requirements on institutions, and advocates hope the changes will lead to more successful returns.

If "Aanikoobijigan" is any indication, those cases are unlikely to stay quiet. The film suggests that the campaigns unfolding in Michigan are not an endpoint but a preview of a much longer reckoning ahead for American museums, universities and the ancestors still in their keeping.

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World No Tobacco Day 2026 observed May 31

FROM SAULT TRIBE HEALTH EDUCATION

Uniting under the theme *Unmasking the Appeal: Countering Nicotine and Tobacco Addiction*, the global community will observe World No Tobacco Day on May 31, 2026. This annual initiative, led by the World Health Organization (WHO), is more than just a date on the calendar—it is a unified day of action for governments and health organizations across six continents to expose the tactics of the tobacco and nicotine industry and address a pandemic that claims 8 million lives every year.

This year, the WHO is specifically targeting the industry’s attempt to “rebrand” addiction through:

The Rise of Smart Vapes: Deceptive products featuring Bluetooth, screens, and even

games that turn nicotine use into a tech-driven lifestyle choice.

Synthetic Nicotine and Salts: Lab-created nicotine designed to bypass commercial tobacco regulations and deliver higher, more addictive doses to users, especially youth.

Flavored Decoys: The persistent use of candy and fruit flavors to mask the harshness of chemicals and hook adolescents.

Innovation as a Trap: Challenging the narrative that sleek, high-tech devices (like heated tobacco and new-gen vapes) are safer alternatives when they are often designed to increase dependency.

Digital Marketing: Highlighting the role of social media influencers and stealth marketing that makes nicotine use appear fashionable to adolescents. Recent data shows that at least

40 million children aged 13-15 report use of at least one commercial tobacco product and are, in fact, nine times more likely to use ENDS products than adults. Of these adolescents, 20 million smoke cigarettes, 10 million use smokeless (oral/nasal) tobacco, and 15 million use e-cigarettes. Beyond health, tobacco and nicotine production contributes to massive deforestation and produces over 2 million tons of waste annually (much of it from non-biodegradable e-cigarette components).

The purpose of World No Tobacco Day is to secure a tobacco- and nicotine-free future for the next generation. WHO is using the 2026 campaign to raise awareness of the tobacco and nicotine industry’s evolving strategies to increase addiction; advocate for stronger policy

action to protect youth through bans on flavors, advertising and promotion (including on digital and social media), and regulation of packaging and product design that increase appeal; and prevent addiction and reduce demand by equipping the public – especially youth – with the knowledge and tools to resist industry manipulation and access evidence-based cessation support.

If you or someone you love wants help quitting, please call Sault Tribe Community Health at (906) 632-5210 regarding the Nicotine Dependence Program. This program provides individuals with the tools and support they need to successfully quit using commercial nicotine and tobacco products, as they meet one-on-one with a Tobacco Treatment Specialist.



Biidaaban Reinhardt from the MSU Extension Program was at the Marquette Clinic passing out the gitigaan (garden) kits last month. Thirty Sault Tribe members picked up kits, which included the seeds for the four sisters garden, a salsa kit and a cookbook from The Sioux Chef’s Indigenous Kitchen. This is Reinhardt’s fourth year of providing this service.

Photo courtesy of Kaylee Major

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ASHLEY GRAVELLE

UNIT 1 BOARD of DIRECTORS

Our Tribe is strongest when its leadership conducts itself in a professional manner and practices the **Seven Grandfather Teachings**—respect, humility, honesty, bravery, wisdom, truth, and love.

I believe we need to bring back a common-sense approach to leadership: decisions that are **practical, transparent**, and grounded in what actually works for our members and communities—not politics, division, or closed-door decision making

- ◆ Ensuring members are actively involved and heard through open town halls and direct engagement
- ◆ Increasing transparency and accountability in Board decisions, communication, and processes
- ◆ Ensuring closed sessions are used only when required by tribal code
- ◆ Restoring respect, professionalism, and ethical conduct in leadership
- ◆ Advocating for employees, elders, survivors, and families who rely on tribal services
- ◆ Making practical, community-informed decisions that reflect real member needs

THIS AD ENDORSED BY ASHLEY GRAVELLE

Anishinaabemowin 2026

Anishinaabemowin is a language that can sound beautiful to the ear. We don't make sounds like f, l, q, r, v or x. There are no snarly sounds from the back of your mouth. Still, any language can sound angry or sharp. We can choose the warm tones consistent with our Seven grandfather teachings.

Aaniin kina waya! Hello everyone!
Gnaajiwān giizhigad nangwa. It's a beautiful day today.
Giizhigong giizhigaande. The sky is blue.
Minookami. It's spring. (*Ojibwe people say **Ziigwan.***)
Wegonesh waa-waabndamang gojiing. What will we see outside?



Oonh! Aaniish enaandegin niwi waawaaskoneyan?

Oh! What color are those flowers?

Zhoominaandenoon. Ginemaa bangii giizhigaande.

They are purple. Maybe a little bit blue.

Wa shignaawish akiyaande gegeti.

That earthworm is brown for sure.

Nishke! Kina shki-miishkoons zhaawshkwaa nangwa!

Look! All the new grass is green now!

G'waabndaanan na niwi shki-niibiishan?

Do you see those new leaves?

Noondash bedaande zhaawshkwaanoon aawanoon.

They are a lighter color of green.

Oonh nishke! Gyaashkok yaawag odi!

Oh look! The gulls are over there!

Waabshkiziwag miinwaa ningwii'iganak waabinaanzok.

They are white and the wings are gray.

Aandekook makadewziwag aawiwag gegeti.

The crows are black of course.

Nishke! Waaboozo yaa besha mitig. Akiyaanzo aawi.

Look! A rabbit is there by the tree. He is brown.

Miinwaa bizindan! G'noondwaag na magkiik?

And listen! Do you hear the frogs?

Zhaawshkwziwag aawiwag n'da gkendaan.

They are green I know.

G'gii gdandaan na ndabaan-nibiish maanpii?

Did you taste the well water here?

Enh! Minopagwad.

Yes! It tastes good.

Miinwaa minamaagwad noodin.

And the air smells good.

Gii mino-giizhigad.

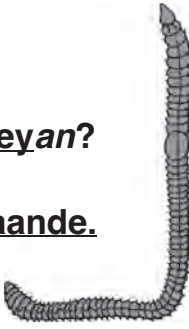
It was a good day.

Enh. N'miigwechendam.

Yes. I am thankful.

Mii go genii.

Me too.



Waaskoone Giizis Flower Moon

by Susan Askwith



Maanda ezhi-nokiimagak!

This is the way it works!

For us, all the colors are verbs (action words). Like many verbs, the colors have a slightly different form depending on whether the one doing the action is alive or not alive AND on whether there is just one, or more than one. For example: Wiikwaan **miskwaa** = The hat is red. Wiikwaanan **miskwaanoon** = The hats are red. Bineshiinh **miskwzi**. = The bird is red. Bineshiinhak **miskwziwag**. = The birds are red.

Answer in Anishinaabemowin!

What was black?

What was blue?

What was brown?

What was gray?

What was green?

What was purple?

What was white?

G'da-aan na shkiizhik naasaap migizi?

Do you have an eagle eye?

Last month we said: Wegonesh waa waabndamaanh. That translates to "What will *I* see?" This month you noticed: Wegonesh waa waabndamang. What will we see? So the endings change for all kinds of reasons. That's part of the fun of this language of our people!

Aambe, baapin!

(Come on, laugh!)



What color is the wind? **Blew**

*I like coloring books, but connect-the-dots? **That's where I draw the line.***

What is a cat's favorite color? **Purrrrple.**

*What color is the letter M? **Pastel.***

What color is a mirror? **It depends on who you ask.**

*What color weighs less than green? **Light green.***

When people are sad, I let them color my tattoo.

Sometimes we just need a shoulder to crayon.

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: these combinations: **nh, ns, ny** in a word signal the previous vowel is said nasally. The n in these is *always silent* but you pronounce the second letter. It's only a sign to say the previous vowel nasally - as if you have a stuffed-up nose!

Sault Tribe Language & Culture upcoming activities calendar

Unit I - culture@saulttribe.net

- Mshkmat "Bandolier Style" Bag Workshop - May 16-17
- Sacred Fire Teachings, Niigaanagizhik - June 8
- Community Powwow Grounds Clean-Up - June 11 & 25
- Summer Ceremony & Spritual Gathering - July 2
- 44th Annual Bahweting Summer Powwow - July 3-5
- Moccasin Workshop - July 10-11
- Cultural Teaching Series - July 13
- Sugar Island Powwow - July 18-19

Unit II, ctreleven@saulttribe.net

- Spring Feast - May 30
- Advanced Beading Workshop - May 31
- Advanced Beading Workshop - June 14,21,28
- Newberry Powwow - June 13
- West End Culture Camp at Clear Lake - July 24-26

Unit III, ccolegrove@saulttribe.net

- Crafting Club at Enji Mawaaji'Iding - May 24
- Wequayoc Cemetery Clean-Up - May 16
- Moccasin Workshop - May 16-17
- Elder Talking Circle at Elder's Complex in St. Ignace - May 29
- Porcupine Quill Medallion Workshop - June 6-7
- Crafting Club at Enji Mawaaji'Iding - June 9, July 14
- Hand Drum Workshop - June 27-28
- Cultural Teaching of Fasting and Feasting - TBD
- Feast Bag Workshop - TBD

Unit IV, ktovar@saulttribe.net

- Black Ash Basket Workshop,

Manistique - May 16

- Traditional Girls/ Woman's Teachings, Escanaba - May 23
- Niiwiin Noodin Powwow, Manistique - June 6
- Traditional Boys/ Men's Teachings, Escanaba - June 24
- Traditional Teaching/ Craft, Manistique - June 26
- Traditional Teaching/ Craft, Manistique - July 11
- Traditional Teaching/ Craft, Escanaba - July 12
- West End Culture Camp at Clear Lake - July 24-26

Unit V, Schambers1@saulttribe.net

- Ribbon Skirt Workshop, Marquette - May 2-3
- Seven Generations Teachings & Talking Circle, Munising - May 6
- Culture Night, Marquette - May 7 & 21
- Name/Clan/Color Teachings, Munising - May 16
- Cradle Board Workshop, Marquette - May 23
- Community Hand Drum Gathering, Munising - May 27
- Ribbon Skirt Workshop, Marquette - June 2-3
- Culture Night, Marquette - June 11&25
- Bird Watching in Anishinaabemowin - TBD
- Medicine Gathering - TBD
- Culture Night, Marquette - July 9&23
- Grand Island Nature Hike - TBD
- Porcupine Processing Workshop - TBD

Sault Tribe 2026 Powwow Schedule

See saulttribe.com for details and schedule updates.

Manistique's 4th Annual Niiwin Noodin Powwow

June 6—Niiwin Noodin Powwow, Saturday, June 6, Manistique Powwow Grounds, 5698W US Highway 2. Public Welcome. Vendors call (906) 379-8486. General Powwow contact NiiwinNoodinPowWow@outlook.com or (906) 450-4309.

Bringing Our Community Together Newberry Powwow

June 13—Bringing Our Community Together Newberry Powwow Saturday, June 13, 4935 Zee Ba Tik Lane in Newberry, Mich. Powwow Information call (906) 635-6510 or email cjodoin@saulttribe.net.

44th Annual Bahweting Homecoming Powwow

July 3-5—Sault Ste. Marie

Char Lewis May 2026 office hours

Traditional Medicine Healer Char Lewis' office hours for May are May 27, 28, and 29 at the Sault Tribe Health Center in Sault Ste. Marie.

To make an appointment or for more information, call (906) 632-0236.

Tribe of Chippewa Indians 44th Annual Bahweting Homecoming Powwow July 3-5, at the tribe's powwow grounds off of Shunk Road on Ice Circle in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

Powwow grounds, 3 Mile Road, Sugar Island, Mich. Follow the signs from the ferry. For more information, email sitraditional-powwow@gamil.com.

29th Annual Sugar Island Powwow

July 17-19—The 29th Annual Sugar Island Powwow is July 17-19, at the Sugar Island

Munising Powwow

Aug. 8—Munising Powwow, Kitchi-Miniss Jiingtamok, Bay Furnace, Munising, Mich. Details to be announced.

Sault Tribe Health Division
Traditional Medicine Program

GERARD SAGASSIGE

2026 June Healer Clinic Schedule

























June 15,16,22,23,29,30
Sault Ste. Marie Health Center
(906)632-0236

Wednesday, June 17th
Manistique Health Center
(906)341-8469 or (866) 401-0043

Wednesday, June 24th
St. Ignace Health Center
(906)643-8689 or (877)256-0135

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

WAASKOONE GIIZIS - FLOWER MOON - MAY 2026

NIIZHWAASO GIIZHIGAD	NTAM GIIZHIGAD	NIIZHO GIIZHIGAD	NSWO GIIZHIGAD	NIIWO GIIZHIGAD	NAANO GIIZHIGAD	NGODWAASWO GIIZHIGAD
					1  Mooshkaneshin Dibiki Giizis (It is a full moon.)	2  magakiinhsag (spring peepers)
3  Gitige. (S/he is planting.)	4  pakiinoon (blooming)	 jiijaakook (sandhill cranes)	6  maang (loon)	7  Zhaashkiaaboo (It is muddy.)	8  biipiige (nuthatch/warbler)	9  wiikenh (sweetflag root)
10  Gashi Giizhigak (Mother's Day)	11  shki-niibiishan (new leaves)	12  zigimeg (mosquitoes)	13  mooshkasi (bittern)	14  zhiginaawshag (worms)	15  namebagoniin (trout lily)	16  kaadiginebik (salamander/lizard)
17  saskwaajmi'ag (leeches)	18  Aabowaa. (It is mild.) [as in weather]	19  zhiishiib (duck)	20  baapaase (woodpecker)	21  zhaashkwedoonan (mushrooms)	22  oginii (wild rose)	23  miishkoonhsan (grass)
24  gyaashk (seagull)	25  Makwenmagaazook Giizhigak (Memorial Day)	26  nka (Canadian goose)	27  jidamoozowan (yarrow)	28  bineshiinhag (birds)	29  Mino giizhigat. (It is a fine, sunny day.)	30  Waawaaskonenh (flower)

Indigenous education leader reshapes early childhood training at Guelph-Humber

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

A new chapter is unfolding at the University of Guelph-Humber, in Toronto, Ontario, where an Anishinaabeg educator is changing how future early childhood teachers learn to walk alongside the youngest members of their communities.

Maya-Rose Simon, who recently stepped into the role of associate head of Indigenous Early Childhood Education within the school's Early Childhood Studies Program, is weaving Indigenous teachings into the training of aspiring educators. A member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and a professor at Toronto's Humber Polytechnic, Simon brings with her a philosophy rooted in relationships — to the land, to water, to plants and animals, and to one another.

"When we honor Indigenous perspectives, we are nurturing the whole child," Simon said, describing an approach that tends to mind, body, heart and spirit rather than academic outcomes alone.

At the center of her work is Walking with Children, a five-year initiative backed by the Calgary-based Flanagan Foundation. The project is designed to build curriculum grounded in Indigenous worldviews of childhood, bringing



together elders, knowledge holders, community members and educators. Its broader aim is to strengthen Indigenous voices within the early years sector while offering children — Indigenous and non-Indigenous alike — a different way of learning.

Much of that learning happens outdoors. Through a land-based program known as Doodoom Aki, which runs along the Humber River, children and students gather beside water and trees that Simon describes as teachers in their own right. The approach treats observation, story and connection as the primary tools of education.

In 2025, the initiative took a tangible step forward with the rebuilding of a wiigiwaam at the Silverthorne Early Learning Earth

Centre. The traditional dome-shaped dwelling, known as the M'kade Ziibenhs or Black Creek wiigiwaam, had collapsed under the weight of heavy snow the previous winter, leaving the community that cherished it grieving.

The reconstruction drew an unusually broad circle. Children, parents, grandmothers, registered early childhood educators, elders and knowledge holders worked side by side, joined by partners from the Learning Enrichment Foundation, the Odeminiwiigiwaamgamik Society, the University of Waterloo and visitors from the North Shore Mi'kmaq Early Years program. They began by harvesting maple saplings in the morning and ended the day in ceremony, bending the young trees into the sacred dome form.

For Simon, the rebuild carried personal weight. She said she had grown up without access to teachings like these, and watching her own children help construct the structure felt like reclaiming something that had been taken.

The gathering, she said, was not simply about raising a shelter but about restoring bonds — between generations, between cultures and between people and place.

Simon points to the medicine wheel — a circle divided into four colored quadrants represent-

ing peoples from across the globe — as a reminder that the work is meant to include everyone.

Belonging, she said, is a universal need, and the wiigiwaam is a place where that need can be met.

For non-Indigenous students and faculty hoping to learn from

the initiative, Simon offers a straightforward starting point: humility. Acknowledging the land, listening to Indigenous voices and showing up at community events matter.

That, she said, is the heart of walking in a good way.

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Lori Jump endorses this advertisement

JKL students join thousands for Michigan Charter Day

By **BRENDA AUSTIN**

LANSING, Mich. — Students from Joseph K. Lumsden Bahweting Anishnabe Public School Academy (JKL) joined more than 2,000 school choice advocates for Michigan Charter Day at the Capitol, showcasing student work and celebrating public charter education at the state Capitol in Lansing.

The annual event, hosted by the Michigan Association of Public School Academies, ran from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 22 and featured student performances, a Capitol Steps program with community voices, and a showcase area with interactive displays from charter schools across the state.

JKL was among the schools invited to set up tents on the



William Ruthruff drumming

Capitol lawn, where students explained their work to lawmakers, families and other visitors.

“The student representing JKL [William Ruthruff] did an amazing job explaining their display and sharing about their experiences competing in the events,”



Photos submitted by Kali Henke

The JKL Student Council participated in Charter Day at the Capitol. Students got to share their love of JKL with other students around Michigan, alongside State representatives, legislators, and more.

said Lisa Bergman, senior associate director of the NMU Charter Schools Office. “Students interacted with legislators, adults from other charters across the state as well as other students in

attendance.”

A highlight of the JKL booth was the school’s Future City model, which drew steady interest from passersby throughout the morning. Students also brought decorated snowsnakes and explained the meaning behind their designs to visitors who stopped at the tent.

Ruthruff opened the school’s program with a land dedication and hand drum song that organizers said went over particularly well.

Several lawmakers from the school’s region, including Rep. Damoose, stopped by the booth.

Charter Day at the Capitol coincides with National Charter Schools Week and brings together parents, educators and students from across Michigan to advocate for charter public schools. The event has previously featured marching bands, dance teams, choirs, string ensembles, slam poetry and a “Student Living Wax Museum” in which students portray legislators.



Above, JKL student William Ruthruff opened the school’s program with a land dedication and hand drum song.

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Together We Rise! ✓ *Vote* **Rob**  **McRorie** **Unit 1 Sault Tribe Board**

General Election Information:
 Ballots Mailed: 5/21 | Return by 6/25

~ For Continued "Members First" Leadership ~

To My Fellow Sault Tribe Members: First, *chi migwetch* for the honor of a lifetime to serve you. I am grateful for all of your prayers through my kidney transplant and recovery. I am excited to be feeling great and back to full time Board work. I am honored to give you a voice at the table. Sometimes I’m alone; sometimes others join to enact what’s best for our tribe. In addition to membership engagement and consistent advocacy, I have pushed to reform our government and establish a 3-Branch Separation of Powers. The Member Survey I proposed, proved Members want a 3-Branch government. When we finally vote to approve this, we will establish a government with real rights and protections for our members. We’ve had many great successes over the last 4 years and we have important work left to do.

Paid & Endorsed by Rob McRorie

I would be honored to receive 1 of your 2 Unit 1 votes. ~ Thank you, Rob

Tribal Gout Reform

- 3-Branch Separation of Powers
- Voted to invalidate Illegal Chair appointment
- Vote for Chair Special Election
- Vote for At Large Auto-Voter Registration for Tribal Chair
- Vote to Appeal Consent Degree
- Support Treaty Rights Protections
- Balanced Tribal Gout. Budget
- Discontinued Tribal BOD Pensions
- Push to Open Up Closed Sessions

Tribal Services

- Assess Health System to improve Services Delivery to:
 - Reduce Wait Times
 - Increase Dental Access
 - Secure 3rd Party Insurance
 - Hired an experience Health CEO
 - Open Medical Assistant Treatment Clinic
- Opened a Tribal Homeless Shelter. Support NOT Judge
- Supported Education Expansion
- Support Elder Services & Attend Elder Committee Meetings

Membership Advocate

- Serve on Employment Termination Appeals Board
- Push for reform: appeal heard by A Judge Not a Politician
- Unit 1 Virtual Member Meetings
- Accept and Return Your Calls
- Follow up on getting answers when accessing services
- Represent Tribe for New Pools of Federal / State Funding
- Fight for you at Board Table

Economic Development

- Repealed Sole Source Contracting
- Restructured ST Inc.
- Cut Ties w/ All Enbridge Affiliates
- New Enterprise Authority
- Hired New Enterprise CEO
- Opposed Business Development not consistent with our Values
- Working to Require Viable Business Planning & Proforma
- Push to Close all Sault Tribe Falling Businesses.

EMAIL: rmcrorieunit1@gmail.com

FB: Rob McRorie for Unit 1 Board

PHONE: 906-630-0017

Judge says he'll only stay work on Enbridge Line 5 reroute if appeal is likely to succeed

BY FRANK ZUFALL, MICHIGAN ADVANCE

During a nearly four-hour hearing April 16 at the Bayfield County Courthouse in the city of Washburn, Wisc., Bayfield County Circuit Judge John Anderson consistently pressed lawyers petitioning for and against a stay or stoppage of work to reroute the Enbridge Line 5 pipeline in northern Wisconsin on the standard he should use in determining the likelihood of success of a judicial review.

Environmental groups and the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians have applied for a stay of the Enbridge project based on their petition for review of an administrative court judge's decision in February to approve permits to go forward with a 41-mile pipeline project. The plan is to reroute the pipeline around the Bad River reservation, after a court finding that the existing pipeline is illegally trespassing on tribal land.

Pipeline opponents argued that the judicial review would ultimately be successful, in part because the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) had inappropriately applied a state statute governing navigable waterways, and that ongoing pipeline work before the review is completed would result in irreversible harm. Even though the

new route does not cross the reservation, it endangers water that the tribe depends on, Bad River representatives and environmental groups argue.

The legal counsel for the DNR and Enbridge pushed back, noting that there had been extensive work and public scrutiny of Enbridge's permit application, and that there wasn't a high likelihood of the judicial review succeeding.

Judge Anderson said after he received briefs from all parties by April 27, he will decide on the stay, depending on whether he is "convinced" the judicial review would "not go further."

He framed his future decision on the negative chances of the review.

Arguments for the stay

"The Band has a significant interest," said John Petoskey, an Earthjustice attorney representing Bad River. "It has an interdependent relationship, and it's the only homeland it has ever had. The natural landscape is far more than a resource. It's a way of life. That way of life requires a sustainable environment. It's undisputed that the project will cause an impact."

Judge Anderson questioned how to determine "irreparable" or "irreversible" damage.

Petoskey responded that destroying a wetland that has not been damaged in 100 years would

mean the area will never be the same.

"When wetlands are destroyed, they don't clean water or control floods and no longer provide services that help the tribe," he said.

Petoskey also said the reroute will create a "belt" of restricted area around the reservation, where if tribal members go, they could be charged with a felony. However, later, Enbridge lawyer Eric Maassen, said Enbridge would recognize the rights of all tribal members who had a legal right to be on the land.

Robert Lee, representing the Sierra Club, League of Women Voters expressed concern about at least 72 waterways the pipeline is supposed to cross.

He argued that under statute 30.12, only the riparian owners (landowners whose property adjoins or contains a natural waterway, and who therefore have the right to reasonable use of the water) can apply for permits for the waterways, and noted that Enbridge is not the riparian owner but a "co-applicant" with the riparian owners.

"Enbridge has the ability to acquire land," he said, adding that all the company had obtained were easements with property owners.

"Under our view, that is unlawful if they are not the riparian owner," he said.

Lee also noted that Enbridge had not been specific about what and where it would remove substances from navigable waters, and said under statute 30.20 the DNR had to know specifically what is to be removed to make a decision on a permit. He also

noted that Enbridge said some bedrock would be destroyed but wasn't specific where that would occur.

"If they don't know the waters where blasting is to take place

See "Line 5," page 11



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Let's Commit to a New Era of Responsibility, Accountability, Fairness, and Transparency

Ahniin, Bigassige Ndzhnakoz. My 'Nish name means a clearing in the clouds. Both of my parents are Tribal. Over the years, our Unit 2 Board Members have ignored communities like Detour, Drummond, Newberry, Naubinway, Epoufette, Engadine, Pickford, Rudyard, Gulliver, McMillan, and Curtis. I will represent you now. **NO MORE EXCUSES!**

We voted for Kim Lee 4 years ago with hope she would break the stranglehold on a "do nothing" board. This election, we campaigned hard to put out daily posts on what **WE stand for in Unit 2** and how I will represent you if elected. My opponent hasn't bothered. When I exposed corruption like the **Unit 2 Trailer** that went to a non-Sault Tribe person (while we have a 2-year waiting list for housing) or when I called for transparency for **Cultural Enhancement Funds** (>\$60K) paid to past-opponent Jackie Minton, **Kim Lee voted to deny you** access to this information. **It's no surprise Jackie has endorsed Kim Lee!**

A critical issue right now is electing a Board who will immediately vote to request a 3-Branch Separation of Powers. I will do so within the 1st 30 days on the Board. Kim Lee has still not committed to this. I may just be the deciding vote which means you just may be the deciding vote. Four years is long enough for the incumbent. If you want change, vote change!

We were statistically tied with a 4 year incumbent in the primary. You can be the deciding vote! ~ Thank you, Dean

What We Can & Will Work to Accomplish Together:

NO PLATFORM | NO VOTE: My Opponent Does Not Even Have a Platform

- 3 Branch Separation of Powers Now
- Constitutional Amendments
- Solicitor to Investigate Corruption
- Food Sovereignty & Security
- Tribal Food Supplement - No Income
- Protect Sacred Treaty Rights
- Fisher's Vendor Subsidies to Buy Fish
- Service All of Unit 2 & At Large
- Immediately Pay Back Elder \$23M
- Increase Elder Checks back to \$1,600
- Address Tribal Health Care Crisis
- Expand Tax Agreement Area
- Support Higher Ed / Trade Schools
- Access to Tribal Cultural Teachings
- Bring Back Ceremonial Tribal Pipe
- Eliminate Nepotism & Cronyism
- Add Mackinac Band to Constitution
- Proper & Timely Employee Training
- Establish Tribal Employee Living Wage
- Employee Recruitment & Retention
- Provide Equal Opportunities for All
- Eliminate Hostile Work Environment
- Reduce Tribal Board Travel Expenses
- STOP BOD Retribution on our People

To Volunteer: Call: 906-322-8470 ~ OR ~ JOIN ME ON FACEBOOK @BIG.DEAN.HYSLOP.FOR.UNIT.2

VOTE BIG DEAN HYSLOP FOR UNIT 2 - SAULT TRIBE ELECTION

Judge says he'll only stay work on Enbridge Line 5 reroute if appeal is likely to succeed

From "Line 5," page 10

then public interest is not met," he said.

Representing Clean Wisconsin, Evan Feinauer said, "They can't build a pipeline and not do irreparable harm."

Judge Anderson responded, "Can't you say that about any project? Where is the line?"

Feinauer responded, "Environmental resources will never be the same, even under the best-case scenario."

Feinauer claimed the DNR didn't have all the information in front of it when it issued permits, and Judge Anderson asked, "Whose fault was that?" Feinauer said Enbridge didn't provide needed information on all the potential waterway crossings, including wetlands Enbridge had failed to include in its project proposal.

"I can't think of a more important question than which wetlands," said Feinauer.

Arguments against the stay

DNR counsel Gabe Johnson-Karp said the factors Judge Anderson should consider in issuing a stay are "irrevocable harm" and "success on the merits" of winning the judicial review.

"I have to consider the likelihood of success," said Judge Anderson. "How do I do that if I don't have the record yet?" Anderson added that he does not intend to read all 113,000 pages of submitted documents.

Johnson-Karp also said the petitioners had failed to provide a "factual showing" of harm and had only addressed a "generalized harm."

Anderson asked why the parties were even in court if four major waterway permits had not yet been issued. Johnson-Karp acknowledged a lot more work on the pipeline could be done before the four permits are issued.

Regarding the right to cross a navigable waterway and whether the application is solely the riparian owner's responsibility, Johnson-Karp said the DNR has had a consistent practice of using a "co-applicant approach," such as Enbridge is using, where Enbridge has an easement with owners.

Maassen also noted there were only four permits being pursued on the project, and he anticipated that they would be opposed.

Maassen said Enbridge has a "high confidence" it could lawfully work on the permit sites, and added, "Just because there are wetlands and forest doesn't mean you don't do infrastructure."

If a three-month stay were issued, Maassen said, in actuality, it would be more likely to delay the project by six months as workers who had been assigned to the project would have left and more time would be needed to hire others.

Maassen also argued that

Enbridge didn't need to be the riparian owner on property it would only be working on in some cases for 24-48 hours.

And he contested the characterization that the blasting of bedrock is not in the public interest as a "woeful miscategorization."

"If they can't convince me there is a likelihood on the merits, does it end there?" Judge Anderson asked Maassen about the success of the judicial review and the request for a stay, and Maassen responded, "It does."

Maassen added that if the pipeline didn't proceed, it would increase the "threat to energy security" and place up to 700 union jobs at risk.

He also noted that there is a stay of a judgment in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the

Seventh Circuit for Enbridge to stop using the existing Line 5 on the reservation by June 16. If that judgement does not remain stayed, he said, it could negatively impact 10 refineries and cut off most of the propane supply for Michigan.

"There are no alternatives to this line," said Maassen. "Some refineries will have to shut down, resulting in hundreds of millions of losses."

Lastly, Maassen said Enbridge is also requesting that the petitioners post a \$49 million bond if a stay is ordered and Enbridge incurs a loss from the delay.

Petoskey, the Bad River lawyer, said the court did not have to consider economic factors when making decisions about wetlands, and he also noted courts have rejected requests for

a bond when the litigants are seeking to protect environmental resources.

Lee, arguing for the Sierra Club, said the court has a responsibility to follow the "letter of the law to have riparian ownership," and challenged the DNR's use of "co-applicants" as a "made-up" application of the statute.

Asked by Anderson on the standard of success to be used in issuing a stay, Lee responded, "50-50 probability of success; that is sufficient."

"I don't think there is a reasonable likelihood of success," countered Johnson-Karp on the chance the judicial appeal would succeed.

Anderson asked why Enbridge shouldn't be the riparian owner or require Enbridge to buy the land? Maassen

responded, "The whole notion that being a co-applicant is inappropriate I think is a bad argument."

Anderson asked all the lawyers to submit briefs within 10 days, with specific attention on the issues he had raised during the hearing.

This report has been updated to reflect that Anderson is a Bayfield County circuit judge.

This story was originally produced by Wisconsin Examiner, which is part of States Newsroom, a nonprofit news network which includes Michigan Advance, and is supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501c(3) public charity.

<https://michiganadvance.com/2026/04/17/repub/judge-says-hell-only-stay-work-on-enbridge-line-5-reroute-if-appeal-is-likely-to-succeed/>

RE-ELECT ISAAC MCKECHNIE

Accountability • Results • A Stronger Future

DELIVERING RESULTS

- ✓ Opened Enrollment
- ✓ Constitutional Reform
- ✓ Opened the first Native American Homeless Shelter in Michigan
- ✓ Opened a Medical Assisted Therapy Center
- ✓ Eliminated Board Retirement Program
- ✓ Reduced \$88M JLLJ Award down to \$35M
- ✓ Allocated \$40M in Funding for the Kewadin Renovations
- ✓ Approved 2025 Employee Compensation Study
- ✓ Approved 2026 JKL Bahweting Compensation Plan
- ✓ Purchased Hundreds of Acres of Vacant Property for Cultural Purposes
- ✓ Approved Lease Agreement with BlackRock to operate our Kewadin Sault Restaurant Space
- ✓ Purchased 24 Single-wide Homes for the Home Replacement Program
- ✓ Purchased 20 Modulars for the Home Ownership Program
- ✓ Renovated 42 Home Units at KI Sawyer
- ✓ Purchased Two Apartment Complexes
- ✓ Purchased Sugar Island Powwow
- ✓ Acquired the WIIWalk Cemetery
- ✓ Created a Elder Community Garden



PRIORITIES MOVING FORWARD

OPEN ENROLLMENT

- ✓ Protect and improve open enrollment so eligible descendants aren't locked out
- ✓ Streamline the process with clear timelines, better communication, and consistent standards
- ✓ Invest in enrollment staffing/technology so applications move faster and stay transparent

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

- ✓ Restore checks & balances so no single branch controls everything
- ✓ Strengthen accountability with clear rules, deadlines, and enforceable procedures
- ✓ Keep reform member-driven-based on what the people vote for

EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION

- ✓ Fix wage compression so long-time employees aren't stuck near starting wages
- ✓ Improve retention with competitive pay, step scales, and fair progression
- ✓ Increase transparency so compensation decisions are consistent and earned

4-DAY WORK WEEK FOR ALL EMPLOYEES

- ✓ Use a 4-day schedule as a recruitment and retention tool to keep good employees
- ✓ Implement responsibly with coverage plans so services stay strong
- ✓ Ensure fairness so it works for frontline and office staff not just a few departments

Tribal License and Registration Program

- ✓ Complete the Tribal Licensing Program with the State of Michigan

LAND CLAIM / ELDER FUND LOAN REPAYMENT

- ✓ Prioritize a repayment plan using 3% of the annual Hotel tax fund which protects the Elder Fund and honors commitments to our elders
- ✓ Provide full transparency on balances, timelines, and payments

HEALTHCARE EXPANSION

- ✓ Expand access with faster appointments, improved referrals, and more specialty care
- ✓ Strengthen quality and continuity through stable staffing and service standards
- ✓ Improve access for members outside the service area through partnerships and smarter systems

SELF SUFFICIENCY

- ✓ To be more self-sufficient, the Tribe must generate its own revenue, govern transparently, expand tribal-run services, grow its land base, strengthen its culture, and create long-term financial systems that protect our future generations.

ENTERPRISE EXPANSION

- ✓ Grow revenue outside gaming to reduce reliance on one income source
- ✓ Require ROI-based spending: measurable outcomes, sustainability, and reporting
- ✓ Build workforce development to keep tribal dollars circulating in tribal jobs and contracts

Paid for by the Committee to Re-Elect Isaac Mckechnie

906.440.6661 • iamckechnie@yahoo.com

Jeff Roy, owner of Roy Electric retires, tribe to purchase buildings and associated lands

BY SCOTT BRAND

Win Awenen Nisitotung was there to say goodbye to an old friend in the final days of April as Roy Electric Company, Inc, was preparing to close its doors for the final time.

“I’m retiring,” said Jeff Roy, “Do some travelling, fishing and hunting.”

That would explain why in

the April issue of the Sault Tribe Newspaper the company’s advertisement did not appear breaking the streak that had been alive since their very first advertisement was posted in 1987.

Rodney Roy, Jeff’s dad, started the company in 1981. After completing his studies at the Coyne Institute in Chicago, Ill. Jeff returned to the Sault and

began working for his father in 1983. He remained with the firm when his Uncle Rick Roy bought the company and eventually entered into a partnership with Sandy Gaus and Kenneth Dale to purchase it from Uncle Rick in 2001.

“We did everything, residential, commercial, industrial,” said Jeff of the company he co-owned

for the last quarter century. “I’d like to thank all of our employees throughout the years. We had great employees and we worked with a lot of good general contractors.”

You might not recognize the name Roy Electric, but chances are awfully good you have benefitted from their work. Ever flown into or out of the Chippewa County Airport? They did the runway lights. The Big Bear Arena, Pullar Stadium, various chain stores housed in Cascade Crossing, Soo Motors

and the Sault Tribe’s Cultural Building are just a few more examples.

“We did a lot of work for the Bay Mills Tribe,” Jeff recalled including the Ellen Marshall Memorial Health Center and the wiring for Bay Mills Community College. “Our last job we are finishing up is the Natural Resources Building [for the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians].”

The three buildings at 2901 Ashmun, home of Roy Electric, and the accompanying property will be sold to the Sault Tribe.



Business partners Kenneth Dale and Jeff Roy of Roy Electric Company, Inc., located at 2901 Ashmun St. in Sault Ste. Marie, have retired selling their buildings and associated property to the Sault Tribe.

Dr. Joseph graduates from Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine

Sault Tribe member Dr. Jackson Joseph graduated from Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine on April 30 and has matched with University of New Mexico Hospital in Santa Fe, where he will begin a residency in Family Medicine.

As part of his residency, Dr. Joseph will provide outreach to the region’s numerous tribal reservations while also supporting the hospital’s Street Medicine Program, serving vulnerable and underserved populations.

He is the son of proud parents George Joseph, tribal member and descendant of John Joseph of Sugar Island, and Kim Edwards.



Family and community members extend congratulations and best wishes as he begins this important work in medicine and service.



Leadership is not about recognition. It is about responsibility. It is about standing firm in your values and always remembering who you serve.

— RE - ELECT — KIMBERLY LEE

SAULT TRIBE BOARD OF DIRECTORS - UNIT 2

STRONG. STEADY. COMMITTED.

Serving as your Unit 2 Representative has been an honor. I committed to this role with one clear priority. Representing our members with integrity, respect, and consistency.

Unit 2 spans a wide geographic area, and I understand how important it is that every member feels heard, included, and represented. I will continue to do my best in doing so.

Leadership is not about showing up only during election season. It is about being present, listening, and doing the work year round.

I believe leadership should always be grounded in service, not politics. Decisions must reflect what is best for our Tribe as a whole, while honoring our traditions, supporting our communities, and protecting the future for the next generations.

Throughout my term, I have worked hard to remain accessible and responsive. Through community events, phone calls, and direct conversations with members across Unit 2.

These connections matter. They ensure your voice is part of the decisions being made.

MY COMMITMENT TO UNIT 2:

LISTENING FIRST AND REPRESENTING ALL MEMBERS FAIRLY



STRENGTHENING COMMUNICATION ACROSS UNIT 2



SUPPORTING YOUTH, ELDERS, AND FAMILIES



COMMITTED TO OPEN LEADERSHIP AND RESPONSIBLE DECISION MAKING



PROTECTING THE LONG TERM STRENGTH OF OUR TRIBE

Miigwech for your support

THIS AD IS ENDORSED BY KIMBERLY LEE

MMIWR event held in downtown Newberry



Victims Advocate Stephanie Shannon and Community Educator Jessica Gillotte-King of the Advocacy Resource Center (ARC) prepare to lead the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives March. Last year's big event was held in Manistique with Newberry selected for the 2026 version.



Left, Laurie selected one of the large red hands to express her support for the march. On the right, Christie Davis, a former Newberry resident, included this event while visiting from North Dakota.



Clockwise, the march sought to promote awareness for their cause with Ally Maudrie, 10, of Newberry making her own sign.



Katelynn Berry, Sarah Chambers, Marsha Gooseberry, Nicole Maudrie and LeAnn Engman trying to keep warm in the sun.

Mary Chingwa and Mary Hough travelled up from St. Ignace to join the march.



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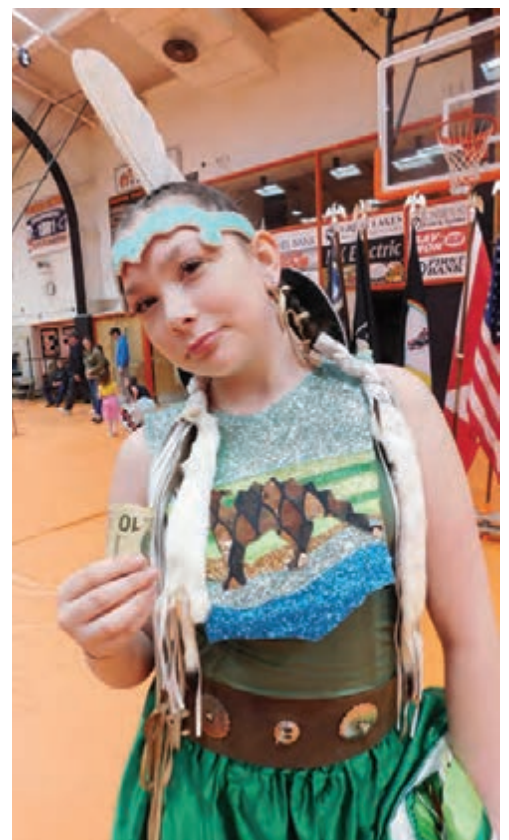
Caring For Our Elders Powwow held in Escanaba Rudyard Schools hosts Returning of the Thunders Powwow



Lisa Havican helps Sarah Garver with her hair before the April 18 powwow.



Jozette Anderson, 5, with her mom, Jessie Anderson and Brenda Kinnart.



Above, Trinity DuFresne, 12, of Sault Ste. Marie won \$10 in a spot dance. The family's luck did not end with one victory, however as her mother, Nikki DuFresne at right, also took home a T-shirt.



Head Veteran Jeremy Burnside with the Agent Orange banner preparing to lead his fellow veterans with the Grand Entry into the Escanaba High School Gymnasium.



Above, Crazy Boy from Hannahville, Mich. was one of three drums that performed. Below the Teal Lake Singers provide a song for the dancers.



The Ice Circle Singers made the long trip from Sault Ste. Marie to participate.



Above, Burnside leads the procession before the posting of the colors, below Head Male Dancer Jefferson Ballew IV of the Pokagen Band of Potawatomi.



Above, female dancers perform. Below, Co-Emcees TJ Derwin of Gwinn, Mich with Wyatt "The Honey Badger" Bouschor, 6, of the Sault entertained the crowd.



Students and staff alike stand at attention for the posting of the colors at the April 22 Returning of the Thunders Powwow at Rudyard Area Schools.

Photos by Brenda Austin



Youth Education and Activities Coordinator Jackie Minton (left center), dancing with Rudyard School students.



Head Veteran Nick Van Alstine leads the way.



Young men enjoying the school powwow.



Miriam Clark (center), Youth Education and Activities student assistant.



Jingle dress dancer.



Friends having fun.



Frog Hills came from Bay Mills to participate.



Ogimaa Minisino, the JKL Bahweting School Drum.



The Ice Circle Singers in action.



From left to right, Flynn Rader, Ashlynn Landreville, Shelby Fisher, Allison Pollard, Owen Pollard and Isabella Fisher back row, from the Hessel YEA.



Shawl Dancers stepped outside while representing the Rudyard YEA.

Photos by Scott Brand

Ron Paquin holds canoe building workshop



Back row (L-R), Larry Godfrey, Adam Avery, CeeCee Holmes, Tony Grondin, Ron Paquin, Josh Homminga, Justin Carrick, Darryl Brown and Micah Ling. Front row (L-R), Midge Tillman and Cecil Pavlat Sr.



Sue Caldwell, Bill Conrad, Midge Tillman and Caden Colegrove (L-R) teamed up to provide a hearty lunch for those in attendance.

Community canoe build held in St. Ignace

By SCOTT BRAND

A luncheon complete with a water ceremony, canoe blessing and door prizes was held on April 16 at Enji Mawaanji'Iding, the former McCann Schoolhouse in St. Ignace, kicking off a community canoe build with Ron Paquin, Adam Avery and Josh Homminga.

"We are here to build a Heart of the Great Turtle Island Center canoe," said Molly Paquin in her opening statement. "It's a 10-foot canoe, it has to be that size to fit into the exhibit space."

The Father Marquette Museum burned down a quarter century ago after it was struck by lightning. The state of Michigan did not immediately re-build the structure as the legislature repeatedly declined to fund the project, but efforts to find alternative funding through private

donations and grants have finally come to fruition.

"I was there this morning," said Director Sandra Clark of the Michigan History Center. "The drywall is almost all hung and the siding is almost complete. For all of you that were skeptical — it's happening."

Clark noted that when Father Marquette arrived in modern-day St. Ignace there was already a society there.

"What we are trying to do is share some of that culture," she said. "Our hope for all of this is it will help Anishinaabe children know they have a culture that all people respect."

The canoe, Clark added, means to the Indigenous people of the Great Lakes what the buffalo meant to those who lived out on The

Plains: "This is our buffalo," said Clark of the importance of including a canoe in the exhibit.

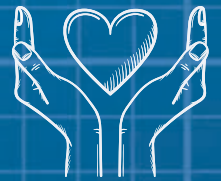
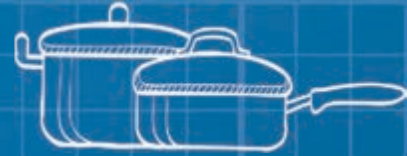
Associate Director Micah Ling of Michigan State University's Museum of Traditional Arts and Apprenticeship Program recognized Ron Paquin as the program's most frequently awarded artist, with more than a dozen individuals learning traditional crafts such as black ash baskets, birch bark containers and canoe building under his tutelage. A half-dozen or so of his previous students also attended the event, with many staying to help construct the new canoe.

Work on the canoe began immediately following a water ceremony conducted by Cultural Activities Coordinator Caden Colegrove and a blessing from Cecil Pavlat Sr. and lasted until April 18.



Paquin carving down a piece of the frame

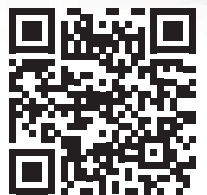
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Walking on...

BRENDA ANN FRAZIER

Brenda Ann Frazier, 62, of Gould City, Mich., passed away April 14, 2026, at McLaren Northern Michigan in Petoskey, Mich., surrounded by her loving family.

Born March 20, 1964, in Detroit, Mich, Brenda was the daughter of Lawrence Sr. and Marilyn (McNeil) Frazier. She was baptized at St. Stephens Catholic Church in Naubinway and graduated from Holly High School. Throughout her life, Brenda held several positions, most notably serving as an Executive Secretary, a role in which her dedication, professionalism, and attention to detail were deeply appreciated.

In 2014, Brenda made her home in Gould City. Most recently, she worked as a cook at the family restaurant, Country Girl Diner, in Naubinway. She was a proud member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and found joy in concerts, car races, and spending time outdoors—especially skiing, which brought her great happiness.

She is survived by her children, Charles Chase of Gould City and Danielle (Joe) Koslakiewicz of Farmington Hills, Mich.; her cherished grandson, Sawyer Koslakiewicz of Farmington Hills; her father,

Lawrence Sr. of Naubinway; her sister, Michelle (Mark) Bliszack of White Lake, Mich.; and her brother, Lawrence Jr. of Gould City.

Brenda was preceded in death by her mother, Marilyn.

A graveside celebration of Brenda's life, with Native American ceremony conducted by the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, will be held on Saturday, May 23, 2026, at 2 p.m. at Newton Township Cemetery in Gould City. Following the service, family and friends are invited to gather at 3:30 p.m. at the Newton Township Hall for food and refreshments.

Condolences may be shared at <https://www.beaulieufuneralhome.com/obituary/brenda-frazier>.

Beaulieu Funeral Home in Newberry is assisting the family.

JERRY ALLEN "ZEKE" HARDWICK

With hearts full of gratitude and sorrow we announce the passing of our father, grandfather, and brother, Jerry Allen "Zeke" Hardwick who left us on April 18, 2026.

Zeke was born on Feb. 2, 1954, in Gladstone, Mich., the son of John and Joyce (Davis) Hardwick. He proudly served in the United States Navy as a corpsman, working as a medic

aboard a medical ship. Following his military service, Zeke dedicated 30 years of employment to the Mead Paper Mill before retiring. He had a deep love for the outdoors and enjoyed camping and fishing. Above all, Zeke's greatest pride and accomplishment was his family - his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Known for his warm and welcoming nature, he lived by an open-door policy, and friends were always welcome in his home.

Zeke is survived by his sons, Lance (Amber) Hardwick and Zackary (Megan) Hardwick; his daughter, Anglee Hardwick; his brothers, Mark (Tammy) Hardwick and John Hardwick; his sisters, Anita (Mike) Gillis, Janine (Rick) Kuklinski, Melody Boudreau, and Tammy Hardwick; his grandchildren, Mya Zimmer, Emma Zimmer, Harley Bittner, Issac Bittner, Karson Hardwick, Abbigail Hardwick, Brooklynn Hardwick, Rosalii Hardwick, and Penelope Hardwick; his great-grandchildren, Dawson Hardwick and Everley Hardwick; as well as many nieces and nephews.

Zeke is preceded in death by his parents.

The family wishes to extend a heartfelt thank you to Michigan Veteran Homes D.J. Jacobetti for the kindness, compassion, and care shown to Zeke during his time there.

The family received friends on April 29, 2026 from at the

Skradski Funeral Home in Gladstone. Military honors were presented by the Gladstone American Legion Post 71, the Rapid River American Legion Post 301, and the U.S. Navy Honor Guard. The Native American Drumming Ceremony and Closing Prayer followed before a luncheon was held at the Gladstone American Legion.

The Skradski Family Funeral Homes of Delta County are assisting the Hardwick family. To offer a message of condolence please visit www.skradskifuneralhomes.com.

JAMES BRUCE KELLER

James Bruce Keller, 75, of Cross Village, Mich., walked on to the loving arms of Jesus, his daughter Nichole, and to all who went before him. He was surrounded by his wife of 51 years, Jeri, and his family.

Jim was born April 18, 1950, to William "Joe" and Audrey Standish Keller.

Our Jim's faith in God was deep and abiding. Wherever he went his Holy Bible was always with him. Jim joined the U.S. Navy and proudly served our country, 1968 - 1969. He was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. His spirit name was Waabizi Inini,

Swan.

In 1974, Jim married his one true love, Jeri Lynn Edge. Together they raised daughter, Nichole, and son, Joshua. He loved his family deeply and faithfully. Jim's work included maintaining wells in the oil fields, driving trucks cross country with his wife, and carpentry. In 2016, Jim lost his leg. Not only did he heal quickly, but he inspired many to learn to walk again by sharing his story. Jim carried the veterans flag at traditional powwows, honoring our country and others who served.

Those close to Jim will remember how he loved all his relatives, even those of us with many faults, his songs, writings, and guitar playing. Jim's love for the beach, woods and Spirit Lake was embedded deep in his heart. He loved animals, and leaves behind his beloved dog, Sally. "James Jay" is a legend in Cross Village. His love, laughter and joy of life will live forever. Will the circle be unbroken, by and by Lord, by and by. There's a better home awaiting, in the sky, Lord, in the sky.

Jim leaves behind his wife, Jeri; his son, Joshua; two grandchildren; one great grandchild; his mother-in-law, Joyce Edge; his siblings, Maryanne (Jim) Postma, Katherine (Steve) Hibbs, Martha (Leroy) Alvarez, Sandra Napont, Jo Ellen (Matt) Crossett, Diana Keller, Margaret (Brian) Byard, John (Norma) Keller,

See "Walking on," page 18



VOTE FRED PAQUIN

FOR UNIT 3 SAULT STE. MARIE

TRIBAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

If elected as your director, the politics stop and accountability starts on day one. Fair representation and strong support for all members in Unit 3 will be immediate and direct. My personal board salary will be distributed to those in need within our community with full oversight for transparency.

I humbly ask for your support and vote.

- ✓ **FAIRNESS** for all members; on and off the reservation.
- ✓ **REAL INVESTMENT** in our people, not just operations.
- ✓ **ACCOUNTABILITY** to the membership.

NO POLITICS just TEAMWORK.





This ad is endorsed and paid for by Fred Paquin.

Walking on continued...

From "Walking on," page 17
Steve (Melisa) Keller, Robert (Tracy) Keller, Dave (Shelly) Edge and Steve, Tim and Cindy Edge. Jim also leaves his buddies Alan Foster and Terry Samuels; nephew, Joe Skoczylas, and several nieces, nephews, cousins and more.

Jim joins his daughter, Nichole; his parents; father-in-law, Dave Edge; sister, Patricia; niece, Trisha; brothers-in-law, Andy Skoczylas, Richard Napont, and Matt Rogers; Jim's buddies, Ed Keller Sr., Lewis Keller; and several close cousins.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held April 16, 2026, at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Cross Village, after visitation, where the family visited with friends beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Burial will take place at Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery in the coming weeks. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the family, Joshua Keller, through Gaylord Community Funeral Home & Cremation Service, 850 N. Center Avenue, Gaylord, MI 49735.

Please share your memories and personal messages with the family on his guestbook at www.gaylordfuneralhome.com.

JOEL PAUL LOY

Joel Paul Loy, 76, of Sugar Island, Mich., died on April 21, 2026, at the Ball Hospice House in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. He was born on Aug. 12, 1949, in

Greenville, Ohio, to Paul and Geraldine (Hittle) Loy.

Joel grew up in Greenville and spent his summers on Sugar Island. He graduated from Greenville High School and went on to attend Wright State University, where he studied accounting.

In the early 1970's, Joel became a member of the Darke County Horseshoe Club, where he found a passion for the sport and camaraderie with fellow pitchers. In 1986, he joined the recovery community, where he forged countless friendships and, for the next 39 years, took an active role in helping others celebrate their triumphs and supporting them through life's difficult moments.

In 2008, Joel made his permanent home on Sugar Island, where he quickly became an active and cherished member of the community. Joel worked at the Soo Locks as part of the welcome and information staff, a role he truly loved. He especially enjoyed meeting and visiting with people from all walks of life, always making each visitor feel welcome. He also spent time helping with the Historic Homes of Water Street and the Kemp Industrial Museum, keeping the rich heritage of the Sault Sainte Marie area alive for all to enjoy.

Joel held a deep appreciation for Native culture and loved attending powwows, especially at Bay Mills and on Sugar Island.

He had a strong enthusiasm for historical research and genealogy, always eager to learn more about the past and share that knowledge with others.

Joel is survived by his brother, Mark Loy and his wife, Marian, of Greenville; niece, Christine Loy and her husband, Kevin Brush of Greenville; nephew, Jason Loy and his fiancé Erin Bailey of Portland, Ind.; great-niece, Haley Loy; great-nephews, Jacob Loy and Ethan Loy; great-great nephew, Malakai Loy; special friend and caretaker, Kelly Parker; and close friend, Anny Hubbard.

Joel was preceded in death by his parents, Paul "PeeWee" and Geraldine "Gerry" Loy.

In keeping with Joel's final wishes, there will be no formal services or memorialization in his name. His family would like to pass along his request that each of you please remember him in a manner that honors your relationship with him. Family will be present at the 29th Annual Sugar Island Powwow in July to celebrate his spirit's journey alongside those he held dear in this community.

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

TREVOR THOMAS MOUNTS

Trevor Thomas Mounts, 33, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., died on

April 15, 2026, surrounded by family. He was born Feb. 2, 1993, in Sault Ste. Marie, to Guy Thomas Mounts and Tracy Ann LaCoy.



Trevor grew up in Sault Ste. Marie and graduated from Sault Area High School. After graduation, Trevor went on to work in a plastic factory as a machine operator for many years.

Trevor was a member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Trevor was a self-proclaimed "yo-yo expert". He also enjoyed going to the gym, fishing, listening to music, but most of all he enjoyed spending time with his son, Mason.

Trevor is survived by his son, Mason Mounts; father, Guy Mounts; grandma, Marianne Mounts; dear friend and mother of his children, Haley Cooper; bonus mom, Jessica Carlson; friend and mentor, Doug Reed all of Sault Ste. Marie; sister, Trena (Josh) Cloninger of Titusville, Florida; and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

Trevor was preceded in death by his daughter, Melanie Mounts; mother, Tracy LaCoy; maternal grandparents, Frank and Florence (Molly) LaCoy; paternal grandfather, Guy Mounts; many aunts, uncles and cousins; and best friend, Tom Captain.

A Traditional Ceremony was held on April 16, 2026 to celebrate Trevor's life.

Trevor's final resting place will be at Mission Hill Cemetery in Brimley, Michigan at a later date.

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

TIMOTHY LEE TOBIAS

Timothy Lee Tobias, 41, of Kincheloe, Mich., died unexpectedly on April 21, 2026. Timothy, fondly known as Timmy, was born Jan. 16, 1985, in Sault Ste Marie, Mich. to William and Susan (Smith) Tobias.



Tim grew up in Sault Ste. Marie, and from a young age, he loved being outdoors with his friends and cousins whom he was very close with. He enjoyed being outdoors into his adult life. He loved camping and trail riding. He also enjoyed helping his dad, his niece, Libby Tobias, and his nephew, Travis Krogh, with their derby cars and being part of their pit crew. He also enjoyed tinkering around in his yard and garage and hanging out with family.

In 2004, he met Ashleigh

See "Walking on," page 19

CHI MIIGWECH FOR HELPING US ADVANCE TO THE GENERAL ELECTION

Aaniin, Boozhoo,

My name is Sue St. Onge (White Cloud Woman), and I want to sincerely thank everyone who supported me in the Primary Election and helped move our campaign forward to the General Election. I am deeply grateful for your trust, encouragement, and belief in my leadership. I now ask for your continued support and vote in the General Election.

For more than 22 years, I have worked alongside tribal students, children, and families, advocating for stronger opportunities, resources, support systems, and brighter futures for our people. My education, leadership experience, and community service have prepared me to continue serving Unit 3 with integrity and accountability.

My Priorities

- Honest, transparent, and accountable leadership
- Protecting our tribal sovereignty and treaty rights
- Safeguarding our tribal resources
- Improving services and opportunities for all tribal members, wherever they reside
- Empowering, Protecting and Supporting Team Members so they can perform their roles with greater efficiency, confidence and integrity
- Preserving our language, culture, lands, waters, and traditions

With experience in business management, mediation, grant writing, and community service, I understand the challenges facing our Tribe and the importance of thoughtful, informed decision-making. My commitment has always been rooted in service to our people. I remain committed to our community through service and cultural involvement, including work with the Rendezvous at the Straits Pow Wow Committee, Indian Education Parent Committee, and as a water protector who values our connection to the land and our teachings.

I ask for your continued support so that I can serve as your Unit 3 representative. I will be a full time board representative and I will work across differences to advance our tribe, services, and member initiatives.



906-298-0299
Suestonge@yahoo.com



**PLEASE ELECT
SUE ST. ONGE**
Unit 3 Representative
Sault Tribe Board of Directors
Leadership Grounded in
Service, Culture, Integrity,
and Accountability



This ad is endorsed by Sue St. Onge.

Ticks in Michigan: a quick guide to protection

Warmer months bring more time outdoors — and more ticks. Michigan is home to over 20 tick species, and several can transmit diseases that are serious or even fatal if left untreated. The good news: a few simple habits go a long way toward keeping everyone in the household safe.

Know Your Ticks

Two species account for most tick encounters in Michigan: American dog tick (wood tick) — the most common tick submitted by residents (about 70%). Large and brown with white markings. Can carry Rocky Mountain spotted fever and tularemia.

Blacklegged tick (deer tick) — smaller, with black legs and a dark shield behind its head. Spreading across both peninsulas. This is the one that transmits Lyme disease, as well as anaplasmosis, babesiosis, and other illnesses.

Blacklegged ticks are active from March through November and are most commonly found in wooded and brushy habitats. Much of the Upper Peninsula and a growing portion of the Lower Peninsula are classified as known-risk areas for Lyme disease.

Lyme Disease: What to Watch For

A blacklegged tick usually needs to be attached for 36 to 48 hours or more before it can transmit the Lyme bacterium, which is why prompt removal matters so much.

Symptoms typically appear 3–30 days after a bite from an infected tick and may include fever,

chills, headache, muscle and joint pain, and an expanding skin rash. The rash shows up in 70–80% of cases — and while most people picture the classic bull's-eye, it often looks like a solid red or reddish-blue oval instead. Multiple rashes are possible.

If Lyme disease goes untreated, it can progress over weeks to months and cause facial drooping, joint swelling (especially in the knees), and heart rhythm changes. Most tick-borne illnesses, including Lyme, are treatable with antibiotics — doxycycline is the standard, recommended by the CDC and American Academy of Pediatrics for patients of all ages.

See a healthcare provider if you develop fever, headache, body aches, or a rash within a month of a tick bite or time spent in tick habitat.

Preventing Tick Bites (People)

Avoid tick habitat when possible. Stay on well-groomed trails; steer clear of tall grass, brush, and leaf litter, especially April through September.

Dress smart. Light-colored clothing makes ticks easier to spot. Use EPA-registered repellents containing DEET, picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus on skin and clothing. Permethrin can be applied to clothing, shoes, and gear (but never directly to skin) and keeps working through several washings.

Check yourself daily after being outdoors — including the scalp, ears, armpits, waistline, belly button, groin, and backs of the knees. Shower within a couple hours of

coming indoors to wash off unattached ticks. Tumble clothes on high heat for at least 10 minutes to kill any ticks you missed.

How to Remove a Tick

Grasp the tick with fine-tipped tweezers as close to the skin as possible. Pull upward with steady, even pressure — don't twist or jerk. Clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol or soap and water. If the mouthparts break off and can't be easily removed, leave them alone and let the skin heal.

Protecting Your Pets

Pets can both catch tick-borne diseases and carry ticks into the home. Prevention looks a lot like it does for people: Talk to your veterinarian about flea-and-tick preventives. A Lyme vaccine is also available for dogs. Never apply tick products to cats without asking a vet first — cats are extremely sensitive to many common chemicals.

Check your pet after outdoor time, running your hands over the body to feel for bumps. Pay close attention to the ears, collar area, chest, underbelly, front legs, between the back legs, tail, and between the toes.

Remove any tick you find the same way you would from a person. Watch for changes in behavior or appetite over the following 1–3 weeks, and call your vet if anything seems off.

Make Your Yard Less Tick-Friendly

Ticks need moisture and shade to survive, so a few landscaping tweaks can meaningfully reduce

their numbers: Keep grass mowed and clear dead leaves, brush, and weeds. Move woodpiles, bird feeders, swing sets, and sandboxes away from the woodland edge. Create a three-foot barrier of wood chips, mulch, or gravel between the lawn and any wooded or brushy areas. Trim shrubs and branches to let sunlight in. Seal small openings around the home and outbuildings to discourage rodents, which carry ticks.

Get a Tick Identified — For Free

Michigan residents can have

ticks identified at no cost by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Email a clear photo to MDHHS-Bugs@michigan.gov, or request a free tick submission kit from your local health department.

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), "Ticks and Your Health: Preventing Tick-Borne Illness in Michigan," developed with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Michigan State University. For more information, visit www.michigan.gov/lyme.

Walking on...

From "Walking on," page 18 Graham. They started their life together with Ashleigh's two precious daughters, Shaunna and Alexis, and they were Timmy's pride and joy. Anytime there was a school or sporting event, you would not be able to miss the big teddy bear in the bleachers cheering them on.

Tim worked at Sault Tribe Housing, in the warehouse. He loved his job and enjoyed his coworkers, especially his boss, Tony McClusky.

Tim leaves behind his life partner of 22 years, Ashleigh Graham; daughters, Shaunna (Keagen Johnson) Michalski and Alexis (Austin Davis) Orr; parents, William and Susan Tobias; sisters, Amanda (Joe Smith) Tobias and Jessica (Adam

Pangraise) Tobias; brother, Adam (Chrissy Griffin) Tobias; nieces, Libby (Travis Krogh) Tobias, Ma'Layah Tobias, Brooklyn Tobias, and Dani Rae Smith; great niece, Kienna Krogh; and another great niece due in July.

Tim was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Billy Lee and Cora Smith; paternal grandparents, John (Bud) and Helen Tobias; uncles, John Tobias, Richard Smith, Jackie Germain, and Larry McKechnie; and aunts, Prinny (Genevieve) McKechnie and Jill Smith.

Per Tim's wishes there will be a private service only.

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

Paid & Endorsed by Cole Goudreau



Vote Cole Goudreau

Unit 4 Board of Directors

*For Strong Leadership.
For Our Members. For Our Future.*

Chi Miigwech!

For Your Votes in the Primary

GENERAL ELECTION DATE:

Ballots Mailed: **May 21st**

Ballots Return by: **June 25th**

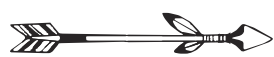
Unit 4 Members, Chi Miigwech (thank you) for considering my candidacy for the Unit 4 Tribal Board. I am committed to serving our Unit 4 Community with integrity, transparency, and dedication drawing on both my professional experience and deep roots within our Tribe. With your support and vote, we can build a stronger future, honor our traditions, and create new opportunities for every member of Unit 4.

I humbly ask for your vote! Chi Miigwech!

Cole Goudreau

Unit 4 Tribal Priorities I WILL Push:

- Support a 3-Branch Tribal Government Now: No More Stalling!
- Ensure Balanced Budgets While Protecting Services for Elders & Youth
- Skilled Oversight: Construction Development, Management, Permitting, Bonding & Budgets.
- Apply Executive-Level Leadership to Our Policies, Processes to promote Sound Operations
- Strength the Tribe's Workforce: Improved Retention & Training, including Workforce Innovation (WIOA) & On-the-Job Training.
- Promote the Hire of Patient Navigators Across the Service Area.
- Invest in Quality Medical Providers & Dentists to Reduced Wait Time and Increase Quality of Care.
- Explore a Medicare Part B & D Premium Assistance Program.
- Increase "In-Home" Services for Elders & Expand Chore Services
- Protect & Exercise Our Rights Including: Treaty, Hunting, Fishing, & Gathering
- Sustainable Resource Management & Conservation for Future Generations



A Voice for Unit 4: Integrity, Heritage, & Progress



MMIWR honored and remembered on May 5

From "MMIWR," page 1
one another. We must watch out for our neighbors. Ensure that people arrive home safely by calling, texting, or sharing your location with your loved ones. Sometimes, making an anonymous call to police or local authorities when you see or hear something suspicious can make a difference or even save a life. Once more, educate our youth. Teach teens about dating violence. Let them know what behaviors are unhealthy and that help is available.

ARC currently maintains a database for our Sault Tribe Missing and Murdered members. To date, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians has 35 reported Missing and Murdered Relatives. Of those 35, 22 are reported as murdered, and 13 have been reported missing. Currently, 10 of the reported 22 murders were victims of intimate partner violence. Of the 13 reported missing, 4 of those Sault Tribe members are still missing. The families of the current missing Sault Tribe members have requested that ARC continue to share their loved one's stories to seek updates or new information about their family member's disappearance. If you have any information about the following people, please call the ARC at (906) 632-1808.

Yvonne Renee (Jones) Scott (then 31 years old) disappeared from Wyoming, Mich., on Jan.

3, 2004. Scott was last seen at approximately 11 p.m. in the 2900 block of Clyde Park Avenue southwest in Wyoming. That day, she called the police to report that two people had robbed her. Officers went to the scene and took an incident report. Scott left afterward and began walking eastbound on 28th Street. She has never been heard from again.

Authorities identified a suspect after Scott's disappearance and searched his vehicle and home, but turned up no evidence. No one has been charged in connection with her case. Investigators believe her disappearance may be connected to a series of murders in the local area; all of the victims were prostitutes.

Yvonne would be 52 years old today. Yvonne's immediate family has since passed away. They tried desperately to find their daughter until their passing. ARC's Community Educator, Jess Gillotte-King, is related to Yvonne and continues to actively advocate for her and share her story. If you have any information about Yvonne, please contact the Kent County Sheriff's Department at (616) 632-6125. Visit <https://charleyproject.org/case/yvonne-renee-scott> for more information.

Sault Tribe Member **Christine Marie Honson** was last seen in Grand Rapids, Mich., sometime in September 1974. She was 32 years old at the time of her

disappearance. She had lived in Petoskey, Mich., with her husband and three children, and her marriage was troubled. She had occasionally left home for a few days at a time, but always reappeared.

In September 1974, Christine disappeared from her home in Petoskey. Her husband found some suitcases in their backyard and assumed she had left him and possibly hitched a ride out of the area. A week later, Christine's husband drove to the home of one of her relatives in Grand Rapids and left the suitcases there. Once he returned to Petoskey, he filed a missing persons report. Christine's sisters in Grand Rapids last saw her in the summer of 1974. She had a close relationship with her sisters, and their families frequently visited each other. In the fall of that year, Christine called her sister and her sister-in-law, saying she would visit them. Christine didn't visit, however, and her family never heard from her again.

There has been no activity on Christine Honson's Social Security number since the summer of 1974, and she never renewed her driver's license. She had a good relationship with her children, and her loved ones would not think she would have abandoned them. Christine Honson may have used the following aliases: Barbara Jean Compo, Christine Marie Compo, and/or Christine Marie

Harrington. Christine would be 82 years old today. If you have any information about Christine Honson, please contact the Kent County Sheriff's Department at (616) 632-6100. Visit <https://charleyproject.org/case/christine-marie-honson> for more information.

Sault Tribe member **Stephen J. Houghton** was reported missing by his mother on Aug. 18, 2023. Stephen was last seen on Feb. 20, 2022, by State Police at Glens Falls National Bank in Moirah, NY. Stephen Houghton's vehicle was abandoned on Johnson Pond Road in North Hudson, NY. Stephen is 6-foot, 2-inches and weighs 225 pounds. He would be 36 years old today. He has black hair and blue eyes. If you have any information about Stephen, please contact the New York State Police at (518) 314-7516. Visit <https://namus.nij.ojp.gov/missing-person-namus-mp140356> for more information.

Sault Tribe member **Joanne Lynn (Somes) Vogt's** last known location was in Boise, Idaho, in 1990. Joanne and her husband were known to have been tenting in the area. Joanne made brief contact with her young daughter on June 22, 1990, and has never been heard from since. Joanne is a brunette, though she colors her hair blonde. She is 5-foot, 3 inches and weighs 115 pounds. Joanne had a lazy left eye and

pierced ears. Joanne had resided in Nevada and may have gone to California with her then-husband, Ron Vogt. Joanne has two children. Joanne may go by Joanne Forster, Joanne Bryer, Jo Somes, or Joanne Vogt. Joanne would be 76 years old today. Her family misses her dearly and would like information on whether anyone knows about Joanne's situation. Please contact the ARC at (906) 632-1808 if you have any additional information about Joanne Vogt. ARC will contact the proper authorities with Joanne's information.

If you would like to report a missing or murdered Sault Tribe member, please get in touch with ARC's Community Educator, Jess Gillotte-King, with 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

The information provided does not have to be current. ARC is seeking information for ALL missing or murdered tribal members, including the seven-county service areas and tribal members across the world. If you need support or advocacy, contact the ARC at (906) 632-1808.



Elect **ABBRIELLE HOHOLIK** for Unit 4 Board of Directors

Chi Miigwech! Thank you for giving me this opportunity to move forward to the general election!

As the proud daughter of John Smith and Beatrice Hursh-Smith, and granddaughter of Marguerite "Muggs" Smith, my dedication to our community runs deep. I am raising my four children right here, and I understand the everyday challenges and incredible strengths of our local families.

My life's work is centered on guiding our next generation. Through my daily work as a preschool teacher at St. Francis de Sales, and my studies in Early Childhood Education at Bay Mills Community College, I see exactly where we need to invest our resources. Whether I am coaching youth basketball on the court or advocating for better educational tools in the classroom, my focus is always on building a foundation where our kids and families can thrive.



This ad is endorsed by Abbrielle Hoholik

Education

- Forensic Science
- Criminal Justice
- Early Childhood Education
- Native American Studies

Empowering Our Youth

Expanding support, recreational programs, and educational resources to ensure our children have every opportunity to succeed.

Stronger Families

Advocating for the resources our families need, from early childhood support to community infrastructure.

Transparent Leadership

Bringing the same clear communication, teamwork, and dedication I use in the classroom and on the court to the Board of Directors.

Supporting

- 3 Branch Government
- Tribal Motor Pool Vehicles
- Transparency for Cultural Funds
- Zoom Cameras On

Family Fun Night held April 10 at Big Bear Arena

SUBMITTED BY ASHLEY MORROW
Anishnaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS) hosted its annual Family Fun Night on April 10 at Big Bear Arena to recognize Child Abuse Prevention Month.

A total of 518 people attended and enjoyed bounce houses, face painting, games, community booths, and table prizes, along with cotton candy, snow cones, pizza, and drinks.

ACFS thanks staff, volunteers, and community partners who helped make the night a success.



Advocacy Resource Center staff preparing their tables for guests.



Heather Pavlat making cotton candy.

U-M awards Sault Tribe endowment



Submitted by Hal LaLonde

This year the three military awardees of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians endowment at the University of Michigan were U.S. Army Cadet Paul Przeslawski of Farmington Hills, Mich., Navy Midshipman Ayman Hemed of Andover, Kan., and Air Force Cadet Cole Secord of Longview, Texas. Each of the awardees received a commissioned officer's sword presented by military veteran members of the Gun Lake Ogitchedaa. From left to right are Midshipman Ayman Hemed, Cadet Paul Przeslawski, Brant Mitchell, George Martin, D.K. Sprague, Tom Church, Mike Mitchell and Cadet Cole Secord.

Misty Ferret earns doctorate from CMU

Tribal member and Lapeer resident Dr. Misty Ferrett graduated May 8, 2026, from Central Michigan University with a doctoral degree in educational leadership.

Misty is the daughter of Judy Watts and the late Stephen Pranga. Judy, née Rickley, was born and raised in St. Ignace, Mich.

While at CMU, Ferrett completed original research titled, "Navigating the Aftermath: A Phenomenological Study of Student Experiences Using Social Support after Campus Mass Violence." Her work explores how college students recover and find support in the year following a campus tragedy. She hopes this research will help institutions better care for stu-



dents during their most difficult moments.

Ferrett currently works at Oakland Community College as an Academic Advisor, where she specializes in supporting students in the skilled trades programs.

Munising * Christmas * Wetmore * Marquette * Harvey * Grand Marais * Seney * Shingleton * Autrain & Everywhere In Between

RE-ELECT TYLER LAPLAUNT

- SAULT STE. MARIE TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS: UNIT 5 REPRESENTATIVE -

LEADERSHIP • CULTURE • DEDICATION

We have seen an amazing transformation in Unit 5 including services expansion for all of our Unit. Together, we have made our Tribe better for generations to come. Actions speak louder than words. Check out our successes so far, and what's in the works. If you elect me, we will keep working for the benefit of all of Unit 5.

I would appreciate your vote, *Chi MiiGweteh, Tyler (Migizii Migwan) LaPlaupt*

In the works:

- A Tribal Citizen Vote to Establish a Separation of Powers
- Work to Issue Tribal Sovereign Nation License Plates & Tribal Enhanced IDs
- Expansion of Wetmore Reservation in Size & Diversity of Housing Options
- Expansion of Townhouse Apartments in MQT & Collaborate for Housing in Gwinn
- Renegotiate with "Big Gretch" and MI Treasury to Expand Tax Agreement Area
- Develop Viable Business Model for Health Expansion Across the Bridge

Our Success So Far:

- Expanded Services for All of Unit 5
- Opened Health Center in Marquette
- Expand Overall Health & Fix EHR
- Medically Assistant Treatment Center
- Opened New Tribal Community Centers
- Tiny Homes in Munising
- 1st Tribal Homeless Shelter in MI
- Expand Youth Education & Activities
- Cultural Programming & Access
- Support Protecting Tribal Artist from AI
- Fought Forced Consent Degree
- Treaty Rights Protection
- Balanced Tribal Government Budget
- Settled Lawsuits from before my time
- Eliminated Board Pensions
- Opened Tribal Enrollment
- Automatic Registration for Chair Elections
- Rescinded False Chair Appointment
- Casino and Infrastructure Upgrades
- Fixed Sault Tribe Inc and EDC
- Represent Our Tribe at All Govt Levels



Viewing the 1836 Chippewa Ottawa Treaty in Washington, DC.

Endorse/Paid for By Tyler LaPlaupt



L to R: Chair & Vice Chair representing you at the highest levels; at HHS STAC advocating for Health, with Dr. Oz at CMS; and with my friend Cody Mayer who endorsed me again for our Unit 5 Tribal Board seat.

Contact me if you'd like to Volunteer with Our Re-Election Campaign - Email: tlaplaun@alumni.nmu.edu

Tribal board meets April 21 in Manistique

The Sault Tribe Board of Directors made quick work of its agenda on April 21 during a meeting at the Manistique Tribal Center, and took the following actions:

- Approved a Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 budget modification to Telecommunications for a decrease in other revenue of \$889,034.10 and an increase in tribal support totaling \$95.83 and a second FY 2026 budget modification to that department for a decrease in other revenue of \$3,857 and increase the use of fund balance of \$57,677.76.
- Approved the FY 2026 budget modifications to Purchased Referred Care and Sault Ste.

Marie Medical Nursing for changes to the personnel sheet on the recommendation of Sault Tribal Health.

— Approved the establishment of a FY 2026 budget to Sault Sate. Marie Expansion and Renovations with a transfer of in funds from Third Party Revenue of \$14,465,591 for that project.

— Approved a professional services contract with Chippewa, Luce Mackinac Conservation District not to exceed \$50,000 to support invasive species treatment in coastal marsh habitats in the St. Mary's River utilizing grant money from the Bureau of Indian Affairs Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

— Approved a construction contract with North Superior Property Services in the amount of \$130,000, using ARPA funding, bathroom, water and electric upgrades for the Sugar Island Powwow Grounds.

— Accepted the 2025 Northern Kewadin Casinos Audit and the 2025 Kewadin Casinos Audit, which includes downstate developments, in separate resolutions.

— And by unanimous consent, revoked Commercial Fishing License C-66 citing aggressive behavior and environmental concerns for triggering this action.

Biron leads hand drum workshop in Escanaba

On March 21 and 22, Sault Tribe Community Health Education, in collaboration with the Escanaba Elder Committee, Unit 4 Board of Directors members, and the Sault Tribe Language and Culture Department, hosted a hand drum workshop led by Sault Tribe elder Bud Biron at the Escanaba Tribal Community Center.

Biron guided participants through the cultural significance of the drum, and participants created their own deer hide hand drums and sticks, gaining both practical skills and knowledge.



Bud Biron working with Larry Barbeau on his deer hide hand drum.

Sault Tribe Food Distribution Program accepting applications

The Sault Tribe Food Distribution Program is accepting applications. Income guidelines are below.

Online applications are available at: <https://www.saulttribe.com/membership-services/acfs/direct-services/usda-food-distribution-program>.

Email your completed

application to mpayment@saulttribe.net or hsteinkohl@saulttribe.net.

You can also stop in the Food Distribution office at 3601 Mackinac Trail in Sault Ste. Marie to fill out an application. Or call (906) 635-6076 to have an application mailed to you.

Income guidelines:

Household Size	=	FDPIR Income Standards
1	=	\$1,514.00
2	=	\$1,972.00
3	=	\$2,430.00
4	=	\$2,903.00
5	=	\$3,399.00
6	=	\$3,895.00
7	=	\$4,354.00
8	=	\$4,812.00
Utility Allowance:		Each additional member \$459
\$744.00		

I respectfully ask for your support and vote in the upcoming General Election. I promise to represent all members of the Tribe, as well as work to preserve and protect the needs and services in all of Unit 5. Your issues and concerns will be my priority. My commitment is to you – the members. I will be your voice, and I kindly ask for your vote.



All Registered Voters of Unit 5 Munising/Marquette

VOTE GLYPTIS

Your Voice, Our Path Forward.

Full-Time, In Person Representation

- Be present, accessible and engaged every day. I will put in the work.
- Maintain a consistent presence at meetings, workshops and community events.
- Prioritize listening sessions and direct communication with members. I will do my homework, bringing all of Unit 5's voice forward.

Independent Leadership and Decision Making

- No family ties to current Board Members or Management.
- Decisions guided solely by what is best for the members of our tribal community.
- Commitment to fairness, integrity and common sense leadership.

My priorities, based on conversations with members of our Sault Tribe Community...

I will advocate for:

- Strong Sovereign Tribal Governance
- Balanced Three-Branch Government
- Repayment of Loan from Land Claims Fund
- Responsible Stewardship of Tribal Resources
- Health, Housing and Membership Services
- Increased Awareness of and Improvement to Veterans & Elderly Services
- Review of current BOD Strategic Plan dated March 1, 2025
- Financial and Procedural Review of Cultural Enhancement Funds
- Increased Youth Cultural Events and Activities
- Strengthening Support for the Protection of our Treaty Rights

I will research and recommend potential next steps for:

- Past Unit 4/5 Boundary Change Decisions
- Righting our Unused/Underutilized Businesses and Properties

I will increase Communication and Collaboration among:

- At-Large
- Outlying Areas
- Local Communities
- Elders throughout Unit 5

Chairman Lowes updates the membership —



AUSTIN LOWES
TRIBAL CHAIRMAN
Casino Renovations

The board recently approved a resolution providing funding for improvement projects at all five of the tribe's casinos. At our flagship property in Sault Ste. Marie, the next phase of renovations will include replacing the Art Gallery roof, demolishing the East Wing, and constructing a new entertainment venue in its place.

The tribe's other casino properties will also see improvements, including new campgrounds, upgraded food and beverage spaces, and additional enhancements. More details on these projects will be shared as they become available.

Apartment Complex and Elder Quadplex in Odenaang



Later this summer, the Sault Tribe Housing Authority will break ground on a new 20-unit apartment complex in the Odenaang housing community in Sault Ste. Marie. The complex will provide housing for single adults. Housing insecurity continues to impact many young tribal members as housing costs rise, and I am grateful for the opportunities this development will create for our community.

In addition, the Housing Authority will also begin construction on a new elder quadplex in Odenaang later this summer. Chi miigwech to the Housing Authority staff and everyone involved in making these important projects possible.

Health Division Expansion

The Sault Tribe Health Division recently purchased the former Roy Electric property in Sault Ste. Marie, located across the street from the Health Campus. The property also includes approximately ten acres of land. This new space will be utilized for office operations and future expansion needs.

The Health Division will also break ground on a new 30,000-square-foot annex on the Health Campus in Sault Ste. Marie. This addition will allow the Tribe to expand medical services and better serve Tribal citizens. Our Traditional Medicine will receive ample space in this new building, which I am grate-

ful for.

Unit 1 Elder Garden

Next month, Director McKechnie and I will help lead the launch of the Unit 1 Elder Garden for the upcoming growing season. The garden was established last year, and the produce grown was distributed to Unit 1 elders, who greatly appreciated the effort. JKL will utilize its greenhouse to grow starter plants for the garden. Chi miigwech to everyone who has volunteered their time to help plant and maintain the garden this year.

Political Advocacy

I continue to advocate for the Sault Tribe at the local, state, and national levels. I routinely meet with elected officials and candidates from both political parties to discuss issues impacting tribal citizens and Indian Country. Recently, I met with Callie Barr, who is running in the Democratic primary for Michigan's First Congressional District against incumbent Jack Bergman. I encourage tribal citizens who plan to vote in the Democratic primary to review Ms. Barr's platform and consider supporting her candidacy.

I also recently met with Elizabeth Hertel to discuss ways the department can strengthen its relationship and collaboration with the Sault Tribe.



Constitutional Reform

On May 19, the Board of Directors will vote on a resolution to send the Constitutional Amendment, which will separate the political powers currently consolidated to the Board of Directors, to the BIA for a secretarial election. I will proudly support this resolution.

Elections

The Sault Tribe recently concluded its primary election. General election ballots are expected to be mailed near the end of May, with votes scheduled to be counted in June. No matter which candidates you support, I encourage all tribal citizens to participate in the election process and make their voices heard.

A leader should fight for us, plus bring unity



MICHAEL MCKERCHIE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

In this digital age of information and misinformation, it's been increasingly harder and harder to figure out the real story of what's

going on in many topics, including our own tribal elections. As tribal members, we have to try to navigate and look through campaign promises and try to find the best candidates to lead us. I often get asked who to vote for and my thoughts on this candidate or that candidate.

I try to be cautious, as I will have to work with these people and so I'm oftentimes very diplomatic and choose not to endorse one over the other. Our elections and social media surrounding our tribe have been increasingly volatile over the years, so I ask tribal members if they want more of the "same ol' same ol'" to keep voting those types in. What I mean is, you can't expect change just by voting new people in — but you also can't expect things to

change without getting rid of the old mentality and the good old boys club.

So, don't just look at campaign promises, look to those who are going to use their voice for you. Anyone can get loud, and anyone can cause chaos; true leaders are going to be able to fight for our tribe at all levels AND bring our tribe together. The Board of Directors has always had to try and find balance of governance (making our laws and policies) and not getting overly involved in day-to-day operations of our tribe. Let me be clear, we do have to hold our key employees (those that report directly to the board) accountable, but we must not get pulled into anything past that.

Our tribe has gone through big changes in the last few years, and

we had an incredible opportunity to reset our tribal workplace environment when we accepted four key employees last year. Our tribe continues to struggle with this aspect as several members continue to get overly involved thus making accountability difficult.

Whenever members of the board get involved in operations, many managers/directors are nervous to say "no;" which makes the rest of the board's job difficult because it's hard to get straight answers as managers are fearful. We have to work together on ways to combat this; many directors get paid good money to tell us "no." I will continue to use my voice to stop this and bring better working experience and a better working culture for our tribe. So when I get asked who to vote for,

I look for those qualities that can help change our tribe for the better without getting caught up in power struggles that continue to plague us.

My family has had several passings in the last few months, and as I write this I've been made aware of potentially more to come. Growing up, I had the pleasure of having a huge family with my dad being one of 14 and my mom being one of 10. That's a lot of uncles and aunts, and countless first cousins, and I will always be grateful for the memories of family get togethers, BBQs, weddings and, unfortunately, funerals. To all those who are feeling those pains of losing a loved one, I will keep you in my thoughts and prayers.

Miigwech.

Updates on three branch government, culture



TYLER LAPLAUNT
DIRECTOR, UNIT V

Aanii, Boozhoo,

With spring finally arriving, the land is becoming more vibrant, growing, and thriving with new life. Longer days and

the warm rays from the sun are finally upon us. While Gitchi Gumee always remains a bit restless, Ni-maamaa-aki (Mother Earth) is coming into full bloom. A reminder that nature constantly carries its own balance. So, get out and enjoy the beauty of the UP while you can. Harvest, gather, fast, go for walks, and just get out and be in nature. Enjoy the balance of the seasons.

Update on Three Branch Separation

Recently, we sent our three branch separation of powers into the BIA for an informal review of the amendments we have been working on over the past several months. The informal review is now complete and the feedback from the BIA was minimal. Most sections that were amendments had no findings or feedback. The

minimal feedback we did receive was on a few grammar issues and ensuring that our code (law) properly reflects some of the clarifying issues that they were asking.

With the informal review complete, I want to thank and congratulate our legal team on a job very well done. It's not often that you see a document of such magnitude come back so clean. I also want to thank all of my colleagues on the Board of Directors for seeing this process through creating such a strong document to finally bring our tribe into a three-branch separation of powers.

Next steps, ultimately, we need to send this out to a vote of the citizenship through a Secretarial Election. They advise against, and will not begin a Secretarial Election, during an active tribal

election. However, we do need to vote to send this to the BIA immediately at our next board meeting in Marquette on May 19. From there, the BIA will conduct its formal review, and then we can move it forward to request a Secretarial Election. The timeline should work out nicely, but our work is done, now it's on the citizens to decide the future structure of our government. It's your voice, and I will do my part to get that document in front of you to express your voice.

Cultural Activities

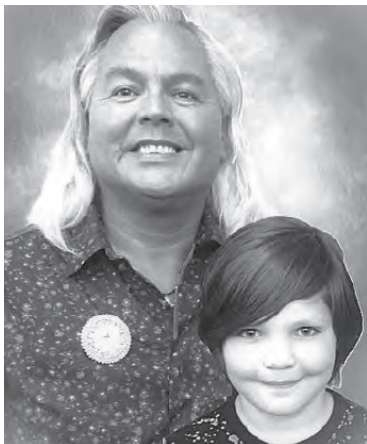
As we continue to expand cultural activities across Unit 5, we are having more and more people step up to help with teachings, crafts, stories, and everything in between. I absolutely love seeing our culture thrive and our own citizens leading the charge. These

activities continue to bring both the Munising and Marquette areas closer together. If you are interested in providing a teaching and just need support for coordination, please reach out to myself or Stacie at schambers1@saulttribe.net.

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

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

Long term leadership commitment for future generations



DR. AARON A. PAYMENT
Director, Unit 1 & TY TY

LOOKING BACK

Disparaging comments in unit reports and in social media of some board members might lead you to believe I have nefarious intent for serving on the Board of Directors. Of course, I and the legions of my supporters see it differently. Throughout my life of public service in tribal elective office, I have done my best to serve you. I was not born with a silver spoon in my mouth and I have work hard to earn my education and experience which includes a GED, bachelors, three masters and a doctorate degree. I have also served in top administrative jobs at three different universities including as a faculty teaching Political Science, Public Administration and Native Studies. My education and experience qualify me to earn a pretty good living outside tribal office, but I have chosen to live my life in a servant leadership role — serving our people and pushing to make lasting and permanent change to our government like a three-branch separation of powers. After all, isn't this what preparing for the next seven generations means?

WHAT DOES THE HATE COME FROM?

Ask yourself where the hate-filled opposition comes from. While I push for an open and transparent government with the constitutional guarantees of due process, standing in Tribal Court and a non-arbitrary government, ask yourself why some board members oppose this or fail to lead to make it happen. Why does it anger them so much that I and others push this when it is clearly what the people want. Could it be they enjoy not have any checks and balances in place to put them in check? That is the very definition of an autocratic or dictatorial government. I am confident the retribution I have faced is directly attributed to my push for legal protections for all of our people.

I am worried that the stalling we have experienced for six months since the poll vote may mean that we have abandoned a three-branch government.

NEED FOR GOVERNMENT REFORM

Before I was ever elected, I worked as a policy analyst for the tribe. In that role, I was shocked to see the sexual harassment, and the writing of a so-called ethics code to violate board members first amendment free speech rights designed to silence critics of a corrupt government. While I was paid very well in that job, I just could not allow my spirit to be contaminated with such corruption. Over the years, I have seen good people elected with good motivations but lose themselves to the comforts of a \$67,000 annual salary. My grandpa used to say, "Don't let your eyes get bigger than your belly," meaning don't get greedy and lose yourself. Sadly, too many have.

When I was first elected, I was corruptly forced to wait nearly three months to be seated while tribal Legal tried to find a way to invalidate the election because of my promises of government reform including a three-branch separation of powers. Sound familiar? They were unsuccessful then due to my strong support at a record vote of over 35% higher votes that anyone ever got. I was provided a year's worth of files to review but was not paid for the first three months until after I was sworn in. I made good use of my time, however, reading through files that revealed a few things like:

- The board never voting on a budget when only they had the authority to do so;
- An over \$1 million barge purchase;
- Investment in a race car;
- EDC losing over \$30 million over a 2-year period;
- Greentown Casino partners gifted 50% ownership (\$250 million value) with just \$135K investment;
- Entertainment budget over-spent by over \$1 million in 1 year;
- Nepotism proof that certain family members had jobs created for them with no application or job description;
- Nepotism raises at 22%, 26% and 27% while the maximum raise was set at 5%;
- Audit citations of casino staff using vehicles for full-time permanent use;
- Board member's relative's full college tuition at fine arts graduate school in California;

— Board vote to set past chair's total annual salary at over \$856,275!

I'm not haranguing over past mistakes just to rehash what was clearly corrupt. I share these because without a separation of powers, and without good, honest elected officials who believe in the rule of law, we are doomed to repeat the corruption. Our experience since has proven this, which is why I have fought so hard over the years to establish a real government with a three-branch separation of powers. In fact, what follows are more contemporary examples of corruption for which some on the board appear perfectly content with allowing to have happened. To do nothing is to ensure that it will keep happening:

- Chairperson use of over \$300,000 in tribal funds for personal bankruptcy attorney;
- Former board member paid as consultant to developers who ended up suing tribe for \$88 million;
- Entering an exploitative casino developer deal that led to a lawsuit and threat to sovereign immunity;
- Tribal board appointing chairperson with no vote of the people;
- Losing \$150,000 annually on failed Hessel golf course with no end in sight;
- Misuse of pandemic relief funds to gift a \$76,000 trailer to a non-Sault Tribe person and vote to payback funds after legal investigation;
- Having to appeal to board members for your job back rather than an Administrative Law judge;
- Repeated violations of members exercising their First Amendment right to free speech; and more.

There is no shortage of examples of board retribution terminations, lawsuits, or targeted investigations that cost hundreds of thousands each time, etc. Of course, this is not all board members. Keep in mind, some on the board have limited education or experience and if they don't follow the Seven Grandfathers teaching of humility, they get swept up and intoxicated by power.

Without a separation of powers, the above examples become commonplace. Speaking out against corruption should not kill the messenger but should be the impetus for government reform. A "trust me," we will fix it without a three-branch separation of powers will never result in the establishment of a good government of the people that transcends the "good faith" or

"good will" of those in office.

We are on the precipice of moving forward or never doing so with respect to becoming a real government. I bristle at those fake cultural arguments that we are only trying to become a "white government" or the argument that "we are a tribe and not a business," which over the years has proven to be code for a "do nothing" government.

LAISSEZ FAIRE = DO NOTHING

It puzzles me to watch some get elected with apparent good intentions to settle into a laissez faire government role not to be bothered by the real challenges facing our people that can only be fixed with real reform now, not when you get around to it. Some board work harder than others. Some have outside jobs which in itself is not a problem as long as they prioritize their duties as a board member and not stall for 4, 8, 12, 16 or 20 years to make any better government reforms.

It has been 18 years since the Constitutional Convention Committee completed their work and recommended a three-branch government. It has been 14 years since the board authorized a "final review" in 2012 where at least two board members boycotted the process and several just would not commit to a three-branch as the Constitutional Convention Committee recommended. Since I have been back in office, I have rejoined the effort to push for a three-branch separation of powers. In the two years I have been back, some

board members have never once said they support a three-branch separation of powers.

As this has been my life's work, I have introduced resolution after resolution over the years to establish a real government only to have it tabled by a, "do nothing" board.

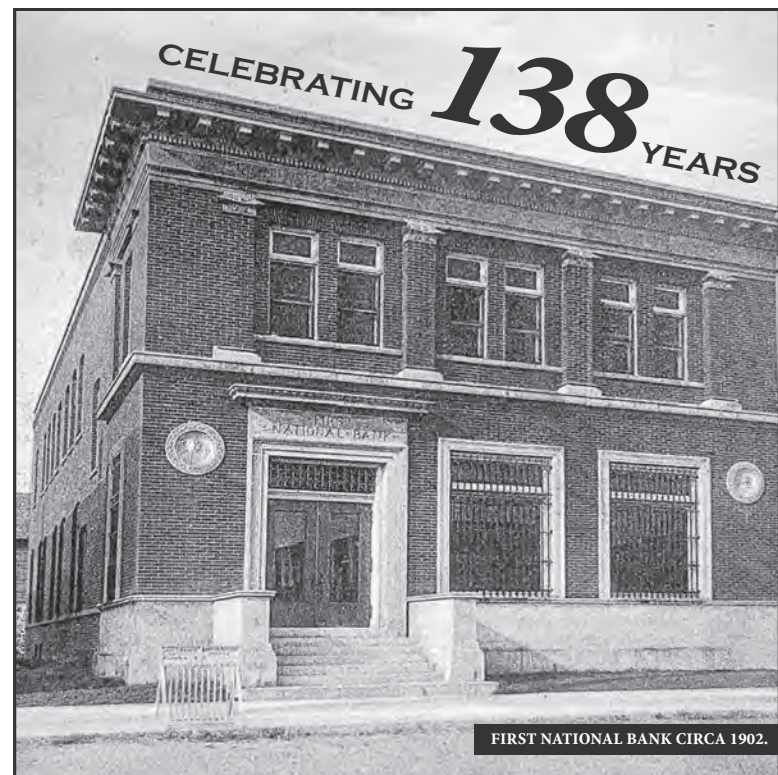
TIME'S UP!

The poll made clear that the vast majority of the people DEMAND a three-branch separation NOW! Enough with the, "I have not heard from the people." If they believe this, they are simply not listening. The poll made it clear what the people think. I am 100% confident a vote of the people will guarantee approval if we are only allowed to vote. Think of the paternalism of a group of seven on the board who would deny you this right? Who do they think they are without the "will of the people"?

If we talk the talk, we should walk the walk. Promising government reform then sitting back for 4, 8, 12, 16, or 20-plus years with nothing to show for preparing for our future with a real form of government is a special kind of dishonest. It's outright deceit. Please watch closely to see what happens in the next several weeks. We are either finally moving forward or will never do so. We have never been this close and I fear never will be again.

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

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



This year, First National Bank of St. Ignace proudly celebrates 138 years of serving our community.

Founded in 1888, FNBSI stands among the oldest banks in the State of Michigan—a legacy built on trust, stability, and a deep commitment to the people and businesses we serve. For more than a century, we've stood alongside generations of families, helping them buy homes, grow businesses, and plan for the future.

While the world has changed, our core values have remained the same: *putting our customers first, supporting our local communities, and providing dependable financial guidance every step of the way.*

We're honored to continue that tradition today—and excited for what the future holds. *Thank you for being part of our story. Here's to the next chapter.*

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OF ST. IGNACE

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QUARTERLY BOARD TRAVEL REPORT FOR 2026 FIRST QUARTER

Pursuant to Sault Tribe Board of Directors Resolution 2025-280: Quarterly Board Travel Reports, in the chart below is the financial detail related to the 1st Quarter of 2026 (Jan 1 - Mar 31). Please see resolution for additional information.

Board Member	Board of Directors Workshops / Meetings	Government-to-Government	Tribal Conferences	Lobbying Efforts	Miscellaneous (Elder meetings, ground breakings, office hours, meetings, etc.)	Total by Board Member
Austin Lowes, Chairman	\$0.00	\$6,189.85	-\$919.86	\$0.00	\$1,462.66	\$6,732.65
Kimberle Gravelle, Unit 1	\$224.20	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$224.20
Isaac McKechnie, Unit 1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Michael McKechnie, Unit 1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Robert McRorie, Unit 1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Aaron Payment, Unit 1	\$0.00	\$2,879.33	\$2,181.04	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,060.37
Lana Causley-Smith, Unit 2	\$101.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$101.50
Kimberly Lee, Unit 2	\$385.70	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$385.70
Shawn Borowicz, Unit 3	\$565.95	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$565.95
Bridgett Sorenson, Unit 3	\$348.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$348.00
Larry Barbeau, Unit 4	\$2,465.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,465.00
Kimberly Hampton, Unit 4	\$1,085.60	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,085.60
Tyler LaPlaut, Unit 5	\$852.60	\$4,628.04	\$3,800.40	\$0.00	\$195.75	\$9,476.79
						\$26,445.76

The expenses above include Motorpool expenses, mileage expenses, hotel expenses, per diem, airfare, train fare, parking expenses and any other miscellaneous travel-related expenses.

Unit 2 business and Constitutional amendments



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

In my last report I explained the updates for the new projects in Unit 2. It's closer now with the following in the next month or two.

Newberry and Hessel Elder complexes have been turned over to the Housing Occupancy Department to make selection from the list of Elders — this will be based on need and the guidelines they have for all the other units we have for the Elders. I'm happy this has come to completion at this time and the weather is warmer for the Elders to make this move in their new homes.

The new fitness/youth recre-

ation center will be ready to open in June once they complete the asphalt in the parking lot. We plan to hold a special ceremony and all will be invited. Our youth education program has outgrown its current place so this is an incredibly important move for the growth of our program. As I stated before, I'm hoping that we can transport youth here in our others areas of Unit 2 as well and build up this program for health and wellness to our youth and families.

We have not completed two new fair market rentals on our Hillcrest property and will begin to complete an additional one this fall. We have room for more and this is the vision to build up market rental for families that do not qualify for low income. Our housing needs are great and anything we can do to build up homes is vital to our unit and the community as a whole.

We have held numerous meetings on the new draft separation of powers for the Constitution. As you know, this will be the third draft that has been worked on through the years, this time being changed and edited by us — the board. We have changed many items and polled in workshop on most all changes with myself

supporting some, having input and certainly not supporting some changes. This document is different from the others and can be reviewed on our official Sault Tribe website where you can comment as well on with your suggestions and your input.

I have strong feeling on the change needed for the structure of our government. We absolutely need a separation and I think that starts with the court and this could have happened first. Through the years, we have made single amendments to the Constitution so as stated this could have been done and I advocated for that time and again. This new document needs to be reviewed by you so that you understand as a tribal member the significance of our structure. In the past, I have always supported sending the document on, even though some try to spin and rewrite the history of our tribe. I was there and I know what took place, that's why some don't like me speaking up. That certainly does not deter me in any way. Truth and history matter and I will continue to correct and speak out when elected leadership cloud the truth which goes for all business ventures, past dedicated employees and successes.

It infuriates me, the mistruths and politics that go on. I'm going down a rabbit hole and I do not want to do that but I want to assure you this, I see what's happening — I'm paying close attention and I'm at the table as always stating our positions and speaking out. I don't go on Facebook saving puppies or with big donation checks but make no mistake, I'm here and vocal as ever at that table with our positions for the people of our tribe. That won't change until I'm no longer in this representative seat. In the end, this important matter of the structure and governance of the change of branches I will assure you that I will vote for change but I shall call out the trickery, too. Just know I am watching and I know many of our members are as well.

This past month, our YEA program hosted the second annual powwow at Rudyard school (pictures should be available in this paper). This one day event touches an entire school and community with over 600 in attendance (last year). I would like to say Chi Miigwech to all involved on this gathering and know your work is important to us as a people and nation. These are the gatherings we should

focus on to not only educate and to keep our traditions strong. Thank you again for this work, dedication and keeping our ways a priority.

In closing, I would like to extend a heartfelt Chi Miigwech to the Kathy Egert family. Kathy was the Newberry Elder Chair and an instrumental part of our community — she will be sadly missed. We know her wish was to make sure the Newberry powwow remained an ongoing gathering and this year our Language and Culture Department had started the planning and scheduled a date for June 13, 2026. This will be at the original powwow location in front of the tribal center and we will begin the meetings to plan the Hessel powwow in our community as well — dates for those meeting will be announced. We hope to see you all attend both gatherings.

Please enjoy the new beginning and springtime weather. If you would like to meet with me or discuss issues or need my help please contact me anytime, (906) 322-3818, lcausley@saulttribe.net.

Baamaapii.
Lana Causley-Smith,
Unit 2 Tribal Representative

Hampton reports on Unit IV meets and events



**KIMBERLY HAMPTON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV**

Aniin gakina waya.

As we move further into the spring season, we are reminded that this time of year carries a natural sense of renewal, growth, and reconnection. Across our communities, the land is waking

up after the long winter, the days are growing longer, and there is a renewed energy that brings people together. Spring offers us an opportunity to reflect on where we've been, while also looking ahead to what we want to build for our future. It is a time to reconnect with our relatives, support one another, and continue strengthening the foundations of our community.

In my work this past month, I have continued to focus on serving our members with transparency, accessibility, and dedication. Whether through meetings, community events, or ongoing initiatives, my goal remains the same, to ensure that the voices of our people are heard and reflected in the decisions being made. As we enter this season of growth, I encourage everyone to stay engaged, attend gatherings, and continue sharing your thoughts

and perspectives. Together, we carry forward the strength of our ancestors while creating opportunities for the next generations. Miigwech.

Reminders:

Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow
SAVE THE DATE for the 2026 Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow on June 6, 2026.

I encourage everyone to "like" the Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow Facebook page. Meetings are scheduled for May 18, 27, June 1, all at 5 p.m. EST at the Manistique Tribal Center. Zoom option is available with Group ID: 906 440 8138, Password: KimHampton.

Unit 4 Elder Meetings

The next meetings in Manistique will be held **May 20 and June 10 at 11:30 a.m. EST.** The next meetings in Escanaba will be held **May 20 and June 10 at 4 p.m. EST.** If you plan

to attend, please RSVP the week before by calling (906) 635-4971. The next meeting in Marquette, for Units 4 and 5, is scheduled for **June 4 at 5pm EST** at the Community Center located at 204 Cherry Creek Rd, Harvey, Mich.

Board Member In-Person Office Hours

Manistique Office Hours held at the Manistique Tribal Center:

June 10, 9-11:30 a.m.

June 24, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Escanaba Office Hours held at the Escanaba Community Center:

May 15, 29, June 19, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Town Hall Meetings

Manistique Community Town Hall Meetings located at the Manistique Tribal Center are scheduled as follows:

June 12, 5-7 p.m. EST

Escanaba Community Town

Hall Meetings located at the Escanaba Community Center are scheduled as follows:

June 19, 4-6 p.m. EST

Escanaba Elders Coffee Clutch

Every Friday from 9 to 11:30 a.m. is a coffee clutch at the Escanaba Community Center. I want to give my sincerest thanks for trusting me to represent Unit 4 members and Sault Tribe. I am always available for questions, comments, and ideas for growth. I encourage members to participate in Maamawi Craft Nights, office hours, community input sessions, Ketchup with Kim, and all other activities and events occurring throughout Indian Country.

My contact information is below:

Kimberly Hampton, Unit 4 Representative. Phone (906) 440-8138. Email is KHampton@saulttribe.net.

Season of growth — Unit IV updates, meetings



**LARRY BARBEAU,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV**

Aaniin,

As we move into the spring and summer seasons, asparagus, mushrooms and leeks are starting to pop up all over; keep an eye out. I'd like to share a brief

update, along with important upcoming dates, to keep everyone informed about what is happening within our tribe.

Updates

The drawing for two Lake Superior-restricted fishing licenses will be held on May 11.

Tribal children who have completed an online hunter safety course may now obtain their harvest cards from Law Enforcement, provided they are accompanied by a mentor; a field day is no longer required. I worked on this update in collaboration with Ryan Mills and Robert Marchand to help youth access the outdoors and exercise their treaty rights.

Harvest cards are free for children ages 17 and under. Applications may be submitted by mail or in person at the Sault Tribe Law Enforcement Building

in Sault Ste. Marie.

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

Upcoming Meetings for the Month (Subject to Change)

We have a few scheduled meetings coming up for the month of May; including, board workshops/meetings (one in Marquette), JKLFC meetings, Kewadin Gaming Authority meetings, Enterprise Authority meetings, Conservation meetings, etc.

May 5, 2026 – Board workshop at 10 a.m. and the Board meeting starting at 5 p.m. in the Whitefish Point Room at Kewadin Casinos, Sault Ste. Marie.

May 11, 2026 - Conservation Committee meeting starting at 5 p.m. in the Whitefish Point Room at Kewadin Casinos, Sault Ste.

Marie.

May 12, 2026 – Board workshop/JKLFC meeting starting at 9 a.m. in the Whitefish Point Room at Kewadin Casinos, Sault Ste. Marie.

May 19, 2026 – Board workshop/Enterprise Authority meeting starting at 9 a.m. and the Board meeting starting at 5 p.m. at the Manistique Health Center.

May 26, 2026 – Board workshop/KGA meeting starting at 9 a.m. in the Whitefish Point Room at Kewadin Casinos, Sault Ste. Marie.

Unit 4 Elder Meetings

We encourage all tribal elders to attend the elder meetings. The next meeting in Manistique will be held May 20, 2026 at 12 p.m. EST at the Manistique Tribal Center. The next meeting in Escanaba will be held May

20, 2026 at 5 p.m. EST at the Escanaba Community Center. The Elder Advisory Meetings started back up in March. Their May meeting is May 15, 2026 at 1 p.m. EST at the Newberry Tribal Center.

Contact information

Larry Barbeau, Unit 4 Representative. Phone (906) 259-3040. Email lbarbeau@saulttribe.net

As always, I encourage Unit 4 members to stay engaged with tribal government and attend meetings and/or tribal community events when possible. If you have questions, concerns, or ideas, please reach out. Hearing directly from our members helps guide the work we do on the Board. Miigwech to all of you, and I hope everyone has a safe and productive May.

Reporting on board actions and Unit 3 events



**BRIDGETT SORENSON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

On April 16-18, there was a canoe build to honor Ron Paquin and all his current and past apprentices. This 10-foot canoe is, I believe, number 86 that Ron has crafted and will be displayed at the newly built Father Marquette Park. Sandra Clark and members of the DNR were present during the three days joining in the build. The process is so amazing from harvested bark to spruce tree roots to a functioning way of transportation. I was happy to see our tribal newspaper (Scott) there as well as the local newspaper (Caleb) and our film crew, Damian and Joe.

On April 21, the board had its annual meeting in Manistique. The agenda was pretty light with some budget modifications from IT changing some positions around, PRC (Purchased and Referred Care) adding another team member, Health adding a network technician position, Health (Soo) constructing a build-

ing across the street for expansion, Natural Resources working on invasive species in the St. Mary's River, approving a bid for work on the Sugar Island powwow grounds (bathrooms, utility building and drain field) and accepting Kewadin Casino audits (clean audits).

With the added members through open enrollment, it is essential to add another team member to PRC. Currently each worker is handling 700-900 members each. I know sometimes the process can be frustrating and we are trying to streamline that; please be patient when sending emails and phone calls until we can alleviate some of their work load. Also remember as a service area member, you need to fill out an application and update it annually. You need to call your worker as soon as possible when being referred out to a specialist or outside clinic for a voucher number. Also, if you need to need to be seen after hours, please call the clinic line to be triaged.

During the day, we also held an EDC meeting and approved the prior meeting minutes as well as the new logo. I did not support the logo. To me it was just the letters EDC with a feather.

On April 29, there was an Election Commission hearing with Jackie Minton vs Aaron Payment. Jackie as a well-respected community elder and child advocate did well representing herself. Aaron was not present as he was apparently in DC and had his lawyer ask to delay until he could be in person. The Election Commission agreed to proceed

without him. For those of you who might not be on social media, Aaron has stated he is qualified to be a judge but instead decided to pay a lawyer to fight for him against an elder kwe. I encourage you to read the opinion of the Election Commission on the Sault Tribe website saulttribe.com. One thing is for sure, he intervenes in every election. Those he supports have the same layout, promises and wording. There are absolutely no consequences for lies and manipulation.

On Sunday, May 3, I had coordinated a MMIP event in our community. Two years ago, the tribe's ARC (Advocacy Resource Center) had planned this event in our community and the discussion after was to go to a different community each year. Last year, they went to Manistique and this year they are going to Newberry. We have since continued to host an event and walk in our community. They have hung red dresses in each community to raise awareness for the crisis.

The weather was much different than the last two years with rain and cold temperatures that put a damper on attendance. We gathered at the McCann School and were fortunate enough to have Beatrice Menase Kwe Jackson come and do our water ceremony. She is going to be heading to North Dakota with other water protectors to meet with Leonard Peltier. We shared some stories and had coffee and donuts before we headed out for our walk. Many people came to support the event but could not walk or walked a smaller dis-

stance. Shirts were given out to those in attendance and many will be given out to team members at the Casino, Health Center, Head Start and Midjim to wear on May 5. The event was sponsored by the Unit 3 cultural enhancement funds.

Later in the afternoon, we had our community potluck also at the McCann School. We had a great lunch and then played several games of Bingo. We will be pausing these for the summer but will resume in the fall.

We did receive approval from the BIA to move forward on the Unit 3 Savard ARPA project. The contractor should be beginning work hopefully by the end of the month. It is very frustrating that this project was put on hold in 2022; we could have had this project completed and maybe even some houses on it with the rising costs since. This is going to be a great opportunity for housing opportunities for our community. I will not be in attendance for the May 12 workshop as I travel to Lansing with some Housing staff to attend the Building Michigan Communities Conference.

Please pay attention to the proposed Constitution changes and why some are promoting it so heavily. More games on the backs of members' vulnerabilities. The kings want the power!

Please mark your calendar for the annual Native American Festival on Saturday, May 23, at the Museum of Ojibwa Culture in St. Ignace. The grand entry will be at 1 p.m.

Congratulations to all the college graduates and high school

graduates! We are all very proud of your accomplishments and wish you good luck in your future paths and maybe one day working for our tribe.

The board also voted in members to the Conservation Committee during the Manistique meeting. Chi Miigwich to long time serving elder, Billy Perry, who has chosen to step down from the committee. Henry Grondin was appointed to Billy's seat and Bob Derusha was reappointed. For the commercial vacancies, the board voted to reappoint Paul Barbeau and Richard Boda over new applicant Dean Hyslop Sr.

The next board meeting will be held in Marquette at the new community building in Harvey on May 19.

The St. Ignace board meeting will take place on June 2 at the Shores Event Center. Membership participation begins at 5 p.m. It is our once a year meeting, so this is your opportunity to attend in person.

The annual Kid's Fishing Day organized by the Straits Sportsman Club will be taking place at the Castle Rock Ponds on Saturday, June 13. Food, prizes and fishing fun for hundreds of kids.

My sincere condolences to the family of Kathy Egert from Newberry. She was vital in the community and had a big smile and big heart.

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

Constitutional reform and BIA review update



**ISAAC MCKECHNIE
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

Over the past several weeks, one of the most important developments has been the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) informal review of our proposed Constitutional amendments, specifically the move toward a three-branch system of government.

The BIA did not find anything in our proposed Constitution that violates federal law. They also confirmed there are no conflicts between Articles and no language that invalidates other parts of the Constitution. This tells us the overall framework is sound and moving in the right direction.

After comparing the BIA feedback with the current draft, it is clear the issues identified are minor and technical—not structural. These include grammar and wording corrections, fixing section references, clarifying authority language, and minor formatting

issues. There were no concerns raised about the three-branch system itself.

The Legislative, Executive, and Judicial branches are clearly defined with appropriate separation of powers and checks and balances. The judicial system remains independent, and the roles of each branch are properly outlined.

It is good to see that a clean draft was submitted to the BIA on the same day, as this helps keep the process moving forward.

What's Next

As for next steps, while the timeline is ultimately up to the board, I believe it is important that we continue to move this forward without unnecessary delays. If the second layer of informal review at the Regional Office is completed within the anticipated timeframe, we should be prepared to act promptly once that review period concludes.

However, it is important to understand that a change in leadership could slow down or even deter progress on the three-branch system. This is why continued support, engagement, and follow-through from both leadership and membership are critical to seeing this process through to completion.

Primary Election update

The primary election has concluded, and I want to thank all Tribal members who took the time to vote and stay engaged. I also want to recognize all candidates who stepped forward to serve,

running is not easy and shows commitment to our tribe. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to Kim Hampton and Shawn Borowicz for their service and dedication over the past 3.5-plus years, and wish them the very best in their future endeavors.

A sincere thank you goes to the Election Commission and all volunteers who ensured the process was fair and ran smoothly. As we move into the general election, this is where your voice matters

most. I am asking each of you to stay engaged, talk to your family, reach out to your friends, and encourage participation.

This election is about more than individuals, it's about the future of our tribe. The push for a three-branch system is about creating real checks and balances, accountability, and transparency in how decisions are made.

It is important to recognize that moving forward with a three-branch system will require strong

leadership, experience, and a clear understanding of how to implement these changes effectively. This next phase is not just about approval, it's about ensuring the structure is put in place correctly and functions as intended for the long term.

If you have questions or would like to talk, I am always available.

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

Reporting on Unit 2 matters



**KIMBERLY LEE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT II**

Aanii, I hope you and your families are doing well as we move further into this season of renewal and growth.

Unit 2 covers a lot of ground, and I know staying connected can be tough. I'm committed to making every effort to be available,

whether through messages, calls, or meeting up when I can. If you have questions, concerns, or want to chat, don't hesitate to reach out. Your input continues to guide what we do. Please keep sharing your concerns and feedback in a positive way that helps keep our community growing together.

Cultural & Educational Funds

We're still committed to supporting cultural preservation and community engagement. Recently, we allocated \$950 for the Spring Feast on May 30. Even small grants like these are meaningful in keeping our traditions and gathering places alive.

Looking ahead, we're planning upcoming events, like the powwow season and other ways to bring us together. These gatherings aren't just events. They're moments that strengthen our bonds, identity, and purpose. If you're interested, consider join-

ing the committee or volunteering to help make these times special for everyone.

There's ongoing talk about governance, accountability, and transparency. My main goal remains to make sure any decisions protect the rights, voices, and best interests of our members now and for future generations.

I encourage everyone to stay informed, ask questions, and stay engaged. Your voice matters in shaping the direction in front of us. Thanks for your ongoing support, conversations, and trust. It's an honor to serve and represent you. Together, we'll keep moving forward with strength, clarity, and a shared commitment to our community.

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

Keep your information
FRESH to KEEP

SNAP

food assistance benefits.

TOGETHER WE CAN HELP KEEP FOOD ON THE TABLE.

If you're getting SNAP food assistance benefits, are you getting the right amount? When it's time to update your information, it's important to report any changes to your income, employment, family situation or address.

Learn more at Michigan.gov/FoodAssistance.



KEWADIN CASINOS ENTERTAINMENT

38TH ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

MAY 22
JOE NICHOLS
LIVE at 8 p.m.

MAY 23
WIN YOUR SHARE OF \$10,000 CASH
CASH DRAWS START AT 3 P.M.
Win up to \$1,000 CASH

Cake, hors d'oeuvres and champagne at 8 p.m.*

See Northern Rewards Club to register and for more details. Must earn 50 base points to qualify for promotion. *While supplies last

LIVE

JOE NICHOLS

EVENT CENTER
FRIDAY, MAY 22

TICKETS.KEWADIN.COM

PRESENTED BY **Big Country 102.9**

Kewadin ST. IGNACE CASINO

FRIDAY, JUNE 5

32ND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

WIN YOUR SHARE OF OVER \$17,000 CASH & PRIZES

All Customers Receive
One FREE Entry for CASH Draws

CASH Draws 2 p.m. - 9 :45 p.m.
Win up to \$1,000 CASH

Evening Hors d'oeuvres and cupcakes

TWO E-BIKE GRAND PRIZE
Draws at 10:15 p.m.

See Northern Rewards Club to register and for more details. May earn additional entries with every 50 base points.

FRIDAYS IN JUNE

32ND ANNIVERSARY

RIDE INTO RICHES

Evening hors d'oeuvres while supplies last.
Live Music with Fyrbird

FRIDAY, JUNE 26
GRAND PRIZE NIGHT
Club Cadeet Zero
Turn Motor
Draw at 11 p.m.

WIN YOUR SHARE OF OVER \$15,000 CASH & PRIZES

One FREE entry every Friday into CASH Draws
Starting at 6 p.m. • Win Up to \$500 CASH

See Northern Rewards Club to register and for more details. May earn additional entries with every 50 base points on Fridays in June.

EDWIN MCCAIN

FIVE for FIGHTING

FULL BAND SETS
JUNE 12
EVENT CENTER
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98.5 UPS CLASSIC HITS

STEVE EARLE & RECKLESS KELLY

SATURDAY, JULY 11
DREAMMAKERS THEATER

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SATURDAY JULY 18
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