



Win Awenen Nisitotung

March 20, 2024
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Bahweting Bidajimowin • Official newspaper of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

Attention: Tribal members and 2024 Election candidates

The 2024 Sault Tribe General Election Notice of Election (NOE) was released on Friday, Jan. 26, 2024, detailing important dates for a variety of actions required of candidates as well as the Sault Tribe Election Commission.

After the NOE was released, staff realized that two important dates listed on the NOE fell on holidays that Sault Tribe recognizes and closes all Government offices in observance of.

The NOE, on page 2, under Election Ordinance heading, notes that the NOE is a narrative statement of the requirements. It goes on to state that “any discrepancies in the timelines contained within this Notice of Election, the Election Ordinance and Constitution are controlling and superlative...”.

In addition to the NOE section noted above, Sault Tribe’s Election Ordinance, Chapter 10, section 10.106 Computation of

In the Next Issue ...

Coming in next month’s paper is the Primary Election Candidate’s Forum. Each candidate will be offered 500 words

Time, states explicitly:

In computing a period of time for purposes of this Chapter, days shall refer to calendar days. If the last day of the period is a Saturday, or a holiday in which the Tribal Offices are closed, then the last day will be the next regular business day at 5 p.m.

Per these provisions, please note the following amended deadlines for the NOE:

March 29, 2024-Good Friday Holiday: Deadline for voter registration. Last day to receive Letter of Intent for potential candidates. Roll of registered voters prepared and posted. Nomination petitions available.

Amended Deadline: Monday, April 1, 2024.

May 27, 2024-Memorial Day Observed: Deadline for contests relating to vote count.

Amended Deadline: Tuesday, May 28, 2024.

and a photo in the April issue. The online edition will be posted April 9 and the print edition goes out May 1.



Photo by Shianne Bathey

Autumn Tremblay earned her long-time goal of shooting one-thousand points in basketball this season. Tremblay is a senior at Brimley High School and her last chance to achieve this accomplishment on her home court was on Feb. 27. Going into Tuesday’s game, Autumn needed 34 points to hit the thousand mark. The highest total for her in a single game prior to that Tuesday was 31; she got 37 points that game, scoring 21 in the first quarter alone. During the game she sprained her ankle and still went on to get her 1,000th point and 3 bonus points. Autumn is the third girl in Brimley’s history to achieve this accomplishment. L-R are Coaches Todd Ranta and Matthew Bathey, Autumn Tremblay, and Coach Terry Maguran. See more photos and story on page 15.

Caesars Entertainment partners with Sault Tribe

Caesars Entertainment Inc. announced on Feb. 9 an agreement to acquire the operations of WynnBET’s Michigan iGaming business and a long-term extension of iGaming market access rights with the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, subject to regulatory approvals. As part of the transaction, Caesars gains access to the Sault Tribe’s iGaming skins, enabling Caesars to operate additional

digital brands in Michigan, and existing WynnBET customers will be transitioned to Caesars’ Michigan iGaming platform, pending regulatory approvals. Wynn and Caesars will receive non-cash consideration, including extinguishment, reductions, and assignment of certain contractual obligations related to both parties’ businesses.

“As we continue to grow our iGaming franchise, the assump-

tion of WynnBET’s iGaming operations in Michigan allows us to tap into a significant market and customer base, providing a crucial step forward in growing our digital products and offering players more ways to play,” said Matt Sunderland, SVP & Chief iGaming Officer for Caesars Entertainment. “We are honored to work with the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and

See “Caesars,” page 5

BURGER BASH
FOR THE LITZNER FAMILY

A benefit to help the Litzner family through their healing from his recent accident.

TUESDAY, APRIL 16
4 PM TO 7 PM
TICKETS \$10
ELKS LODGE, 1111 E PORTAGE AVE.

TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT:
• JKL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING BETWEEN 8-4
• SAULT HIGH CROSS COUNTRY TEAM MEMBERS
• THE DOOR

THERE WILL BE A SILENT AUCTION AND BAKED GOODS FOR SALE.



Gabe Litzner

www.saulttribe.com

Upcoming town halls will help identify improvements to Sault Tribe health services

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians will hold two town hall meetings this month to gather public input that will shape the future of the healthcare services it provides to the Eastern Upper Peninsula region. One will be held in Munising and the other in Hessel:

Munising

When: March 27, 2024, 5-6:30 p.m.

Where: Munising Tribal Center, 622 W. Superior Street, Munising, MI 49862,

Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85296650651>

Hessel

When: March 28, 2024, 5-6:30 p.m.

Where: Hessel Tribal Center, 3355 N. 3 Mile Road, Hessel, MI 49745

Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82226241347>

The town hall meetings are part of an ongoing clinic operations and community health needs assessment the tribe has been conducting since the beginning of the year. Previous meetings were held in Sault Ste. Marie, St. Ignace and Manistique. Other activities to

determine possible changes and improvements include reviewing health system data, conducting staff and community surveys and interviews and analyzing market demand.

Community members who participate in-person will be entered into a drawing for the chance to win a \$50 gift card that will be raffled as a thank you for their time and input. Anyone who cannot attend the events in-person will have the opportunity to participate via Zoom at the links above. Go to saulttribe.com to click on the active links.

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JKL Bahweting students excel on national stage

By SCOTT BRAND

Parlaying a regional championship into a trip to Washington, D.C., a team from Joseph K. Lumsden Bahweting Anishnabe Academy in Sault Ste. Marie has returned home with the Design E (Engineering) Special award for the Outstanding City Model, besting the field of 47 teams in this category during the National Championship.

Gifted and Talented Teacher Susan Solomon of JKL Bahweting has overseen the program for the last four years scoring two second place finishes in the regional competition in the past before securing the first win in the latest competition. That initial victory, which took place in Novi, Mich., saw the JKL Bahweting Team punch their ticket to the National Finals against more than three dozen other schools.

“We had two teams this year,” said Solomon, noting the veterans, NeoOrleans took first in Novi, while the younger team New Boise finished in seventh. “They designed a city 100 years in the future.”

The goal of the annual competition, according to Solomon, is get to young people to consider careers in engineering. The teams were rated on five separate categories, an essay limited to 1,500 words, the model of the city, project plan, presentation and finally the students’ ability to handle a question-and-answer session from the judges.

NeoOrleans had 10 members, including Layla Thomas-Holm, Alexandra Balyeat, Hunter Clark, Karter Ince, Emi Fonselius, George Solomon and Emery McKelvie, on the team throughout the school year with the other three individuals — Lorelai Kachur, a 13-year-old eighth grader and twin brothers, Luke and Liam Roe, both 13-year-old seventh graders — traveling to the Nation’s Capitol for the competition.

“We used humidity in the air to create our energy source,” explained Luke, adding that was in addition to the solar, windmills and water wheels employed in the design.

Team NeoOrleans also had an ace in the hole when it came to their “Electrify Your Future” entry envisioning a 2124 future where they partnered with extraterrestrials to utilize alien



Liam Roe, Lorelai Kachur and Luke Roe proudly display the trophies won by Team NeoOrleans with Coach Susan Solomon in front of JKL Bahweting School. Below, standing the team, Luke Roe, George Solomon, Hunter Clark, Alexandra Balyeat and Lorelai Kachur, and sitting, Emery McKelvie, Liam Roe and Emi Fonselius took first place in the regional competition in Novi, Mich.

technology to tap into solar energy from space.

“It has to be related to science and technologically and mathematically realistic,” said Solomon.

Neo Orleans took home the first-place trophy for “Best Use of Plastic” and finished seventh overall in the competition.

The Roe Twins and Kachur said they came home with a lot of memories. Most of them good, like seeing the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial, many museums and Texas-style barbecue, but there was the occasional downside such as the crab shack and newly-discovered shellfish allergies.

“They are amazing,” said Solomon of this year’s team. “Not only are they smart, not only are they creative, but they work incredibly hard.”

NeoOrleans has been invited back to Washington, D.C. to represent Future City in the National STEM Festival in April.

Kachur will be moving on into ninth grade at Sault High next year, while the Roe Twins and a host of others — including 12 students on the Neo Boise Team currently comprised of sixth and seventh graders — will be able to return for next year’s competition.

“Our future is in really good hands,” concluded Solomon.



Trouble keeping your CGM sensor on?

Patients of Sault Tribe Health Center who use a continuous glucose monitor (CGM) or an insulin pump are invited to stop by Community Health at the Sault location, 2864 Ashmun St., to receive a free box of Skin Prep. Skin Prep aids in adhesion of the device to skin, creating a barrier between the two. Patients often find this helps their CGM sensor stay on.

Try Skin Prep for Free!



Please contact the Community Health Department at (906) 632-5210 with any questions.

Come Show your support!

child abuse PREVENTION MONTH

Drive Thru Event

When: April 19, 2024 5-7 PM

Where: Big Bear Parking Lot

2 Ice Circle, Sault Ste. Marie

Free t-shirts & goodie bags

Brought to you by Anishnaabek Community and Family Services

Contact Ashley Morrow with any questions at (906)495-1232

Committee vacancies — volunteers needed!

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

Anishinaabe Cultural Committee - Ten vacancies - five males (4-year term), five females (4-year term)
Child Welfare Committee - Three vacancies (4-year term)
Health Board - Two vacancies (4-year term)
Housing/Utility Authority - One vacancy (4-year term)
Special Needs/Enrollment

Committee - (2-year term)
 Unit I - Two vacancies
 Unit II - Two vacancies
 Unit III - Two vacancies
Elder Advisory Committee
 Unit I - Sault - One alternate vacancy (4-year term)
 Unit II - Hessel - One alternate vacancy (4-year term)
 Unit II - Naubinway - One regular vacancy (4-year term)

Unit III - St. Ignace - Two alternate vacancies (4-year term)
 Unit V - Marquette - One alternate vacancy (4-year term)
Elder Subcommittees
 Unit I - Sault - One alternate vacancy (4-year term)
 Unit IV - Manistique - One regular and two alternate vacan-

cies (4-year term)
 Unit IV - Escanaba - One alternate vacancy (4-year term)
 Unit V - Munising - One regular vacancy, two alternate vacancies (4-year term)
 Unit V - Marquette - One regular vacancy (4-year term)

WIOA funding available

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

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

may reimburse an employer 50 percent of your wage for a specified training period.

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

Apply at WIOA at Big Bear Community Recreation Center in Sault Ste. Marie, or call Brenda Cadreau at (906) 635-4767.

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!

Membership liaisons available to help answer questions

Three membership liaisons work with the chairperson's office on membership issues and concerns across the service area. The liaisons respond to membership issues and follow up to ensure they are resolved.

Sault Tribe members are encouraged to contact the liaisons when they need help with tribal issues by emailing them at membersconcerns@saulttribe.net or contacting them individually at:

Clarence Hudak, Lambert Center, St. Ignace, Mich., (906) 643-2124, chudak@saulttribe.net.

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

Michelle Moore at (906) 635-6050, mmoore@saulttribe.net.



Part-Time Reporter for Sault Tribe Guardian. The Reporter for the Sault Tribe Guardian is required to be an Enrolled Tribal Member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and must be available to attend Sault Tribe Board Meetings. You can attend meetings in person or on Zoom. This job is exclusively governed by Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians Regulations; You must have the rights and ability to work on the Sault Tribe Reservation when assigned by the Editor.

https://saulttribeguardian.com is a Tribal Member Owned Independent News Website for Sault Tribe Members and is not owned or operated by the Tribe.

To apply, email your Resume, References, Portfolio, and the Desired Rate of Pay to news@saulttribeguardian.com.

https://saulttribeguardian.com

Burger Bash being held for youth struck by vehicle

A Burger Bash for the Litzner Family will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. on April 16 at the Elks Lodge, 1111 E. Portage Avenue, in Sault Ste. Marie Mich.

"He is up and walking," said Aaron Litzner of his 15-year-old son on the morning of March 11. "We are heading home."

Gabe Litzner, a sophomore at Sault High School, was struck by a vehicle at the south end of the Ashmun Street Bridge on March 5. He was initially transported to MyMichigan Medical in the Sault and subsequently conveyed downstate where he remained

hospitalized for close to a week recovering from serious injuries sustained in the accident.

Gabe, a member of the Sault High Blue Devils Cross Country Team, has already etched his name in the record books claiming the 2022 and 2023 U.P. Division I Finals Cross Country Championships in his first two seasons of competition fueled by his strict training regimen running upwards of 40 miles per week before the accident.

Tickets for the upcoming Burger Bash can be purchased

from Sault High Cross-Country Team members at the administration building for the JKL Bahweting School or at the Elks Lodge on April 16.

Gabe is a Sault Tribe member.

Tribal gas and cigarette discount locations

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

Tribal owned gas stations offering gas and cigarette discounts:

- MidJim Convenience Store, 25 Shunk Road, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

- MidJim Convenience Store, 303 Mackinac Trail, St. Ignace, MI 49781

- White Pine Lodge and Convenience Store, 7889 E. W. M-8, Christmas, MI 49862

Tribal owned gas station offering gas discount only:

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

Not tribal owned stations that are offering gas discounts only:

- Kinross BP, 4 Tone Road, Kincheloe, MI 49788

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

- Sunoco, 13975 M-8, Newberry, MI 49868

- Manistique Oil Company, 26 Deer Street, Manistique, MI 49854

- Carnes Eco Fuels, 300 Ludington Street, Escanaba, MI 49837

Enrollment announcement

Up to date addresses sought
 Sault Tribe members whose addresses are not up to date have "bad addresses" with the tribe's Enrollment Department.

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

Go to the tribe's website at

saulttribe.net 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.

Win Awenen Nisitotung

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

March 20, 2024
 Maple Sugar Moon
 Zisbaakdoke 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: \$18 per year, \$11 for senior citizens and \$30 to Canada. Call for other foreign countries.

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

Advertising: \$8.50/column inch. (Paid advertising with editorial content will be treated as editorial content.)

Submission and Subscriptions:
 Win Awenen Nisitotung
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Thirty tribal nations ask Biden administration to condemn Canadian pipeline trespass

FROM NARF

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The leaders of 30 Tribal Nations in the Great Lakes region sent a letter to President Joe Biden urging the United States to speak out against the Enbridge Line 5 pipeline's trespass on the Bad River Band's land. Last June, a federal district court held that Enbridge has been knowingly trespassing on the Bad River Reservation since 2013 and ordered them to stop operating Line 5 on tribal land by 2026. Enbridge appealed the case to the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, arguing that they should be allowed to trespass indefinitely. The court requested federal input in December 2023, but the Biden Administration has not responded. At the oral argument held before a Seventh Circuit panel on February 8, Judge Frank Easterbrook called the United States' silence "extraordinary."

The tribal leaders' letter presses the U.S. government to weigh in: The Bad River Band should not be left to wage an existential fight against Enbridge and Canada while its trustee and treaty partner, the United States, remains on the sidelines.

"When a foreign corporation seeks to disregard U.S.

property laws and threatens tribal sovereignty and the rights of Indigenous citizens of the United States, the federal government has an obligation to push back against that incursion," said Bay Mills Indian Community President Whitney Gravelle. "We request that President Biden acts quickly to support, not just the right of Tribal Nations to protect their lands and people, but also the rule of law."

Line 5 transports up to 23 million gallons of crude oil and natural gas liquids daily from western to eastern Canada, cutting across the treaty-reserved territory of Tribal Nations including the Bad River Band in Wisconsin and the Bay Mills Indian Community in Michigan. Since 2013, Enbridge has earned over \$1 billion by trespassing on the Bad River Band's reservation, where there are only 11 feet of bank remaining between the pipeline and the current of the Bad River at its narrowest point.

"A pipeline company's control of the Bad River would devastate our seasonal fisheries, the resources necessary for wild rice life cycle, and the flood protection safety the river plain provides. It has not been easy fighting a multi-national

corporation and the government of Canada for our right to protect our homeland, but thankfully we have not been alone. Our sister tribes as well as the state of Michigan have spoken up to defend the sovereign right of tribes and states to safeguard their homelands and the reasons we live here, and against flagrant trespass and environmental disaster at the Straits. It is time for the Biden Administration to step up to protect our reservation and watershed for the benefit of all," said Bad River Tribal Chairman Robert Blanchard.

Studies and analysis by Enbridge's own experts reveal that Line 5 can be shut down with almost no impact on fuel supplies or gas prices.

Even so, the government of Canada officially has weighed in on the side of Enbridge, while the U.S. government has been mute.

"Canada and Enbridge's legal arguments would strip sovereign governments — tribal, state, and federal — of the ability to regulate the most dangerous of pipelines. Governments would be left powerless to prevent egregious trespasses and the continued operation of pipelines even in the face of grave threats. We remain hopeful that

the Biden Administration will heed that call and stand up for tribal, state, and federal sovereignty and the rule of law," said Riyaz Kanji, lead counsel for the Bad River Band.

The letter, signed by 30 Tribal Nations in the Great Lakes region, said: "[M]any Tribal Nations, like the Bad River Band, have entered into treaties with the United States guaranteeing them permanent homelands and reserving for them the right to exclude non-Indians from their homelands. These treaties are the supreme law of the land. One aspect of the inherent sovereign authority that Tribal Nations have retained is their absolute right and power to exclude non-Indians from, condition non-Indians' entry on, and expel trespassing non-Indians from tribal lands.

This right is a core aspect

of tribal sovereignty and has been repeatedly affirmed by the United States Supreme Court for over two centuries."

Moving ?



When you move, let us know where you are headed! That way you won't miss one issue of your tribal paper. Call (906) 632-6398 or email slucas@saulttribe.net.

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All Sites | Wednesdays in March

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YOOPER SLOT TOURNAMENTS
Christmas & Hessel | Mondays & Tuesdays | April 1 - Sept 3, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Manistique | Wednesdays & Thursdays | April 3 - Sept 5, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Daily Prize Pool of 25,000 Bonus Points

SPIN TO WIN
St. Ignace | April 5-6
Up to \$15,000 CASH/Bonus Points

\$22,500 MEGA BINGO
St. Ignace | April 20
Win your Share of \$22,500 CASH

VIDEO POKER
Sault Ste. Marie | April 26-28
Up to \$15,000 CASH/Bonus Points

DreamCatchers Restaurant | April Feature | Chicken Oscar
Marinated Grilled Chicken Breast with Lump Crab Meat, Asparagus and Hollandaise Sauce; Served with Chef's Vegetable and a Baked Potato.

Easter Day Dining
Join us Sunday, March 31 for our Easter Specials. You'll be hoppy you did!
Find more information at kewadin.com/dining.

Point requirements for all promotions. See Northern Rewards Club to register and for more details.



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

March celebrates Parenting Awareness Month

March marks National Parenting Awareness Month, aiming to highlight the significant influence parents have in shaping their children's lives.

Access free resources, valuable tips, and inspiring parenting narratives at <http://www.parenting.org>.

Drop by the Sault Ste. Marie Health Center and the Manistique Tribal Community Center to explore the Parenting Awareness Month bulletin board, where you can find informative materials, complimentary promotional items, and valuable parenting resources.

Were you aware that Aaniinaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS) delivers a comprehensive parenting program tailored for families residing in their seven-county service area?

This program covers vital topics including child development, establishing family routines, effective communication, discipline strategies, empathy cultivation, and fostering self-worth, especially for parenting teens.

Spanning approximately 14 sessions, the program accommodates both voluntary participants and those mandated by court orders, prioritizing practical skills and knowledge applicable to real-life scenarios. To track progress, pre and post assessments evaluate the acquired knowledge throughout the program duration.

Clients retain the autonomy to self-refer, ensuring accessible and proactive engagement. Beyond merely equipping families with

essential tools, the program strives to offer hands-on guidance within the family unit, cultivating a safer, nurturing environment for children and teenagers alike.

ACFS also offers a range of other vital family support programs within the seven-county service area, all aimed at ensuring the safety, protection, and well-being of Native children.

Child Protective Services (CPS): Dedicated to the safety, permanency, and well-being of children and their families. ACFS delivers child protective services to children and their families residing on trust land, who are either eligible or enrolled with a federally recognized tribe. CPS aims to ensure the well-being of children by preventing abuse and neglect, promoting family stability, and upholding the integrity of the family structure.

Prevention Programs: A voluntary program that supports the family in addressing needs identified by client and family such as school issues, legal issues, housing issues, medical issues or any-

thing identified as a need by the family. Clients have the ability to refer themselves.

In-Home Care Services: In cases following the substantiated investigation of child abuse or neglect where the decision is made that children can be maintained safely in the home, ACFS will provide In Home Care services that focus on the safety and risk issues identified during the CPS investigation. Services are targeted to individual child and family needs.

Family Continuity Support: A voluntary intensive home-based program designed to prevent the removal of children from the parental home or to help facilitate reunification. Referrals come from DHHS or ACFS CPS. The program assists with various issues facing the family including employment, housing, housekeeping, budgeting, transportation, etc.

Adolescent In-Home Assistance: The AIHA program is designed to identify and provide services to adolescents who are

engaging in at-risk behaviors. The program is voluntary or court ordered and provides culturally appropriate advocacy, support, and connections with community-based services that enables families to remain together or reunites the family with the adolescent that is in an out of home placement due to delinquency issues. Clients have the ability to refer themselves.

Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Monitoring: ACFS provides monitoring of child welfare cases throughout the United States involving children either enrolled in or eligible for

membership in the tribe to ensure that the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) is followed.

For information regarding available programs catering to specific needs or to seek assistance for yourself or a family member, please reach out to ACFS at 1-800-726-0093 or (906) 632-5250.

If you are interested in making a meaningful difference in a child's life by becoming a foster or adoptive parent, contact ACFS at 1-800-726-0093 or via email at acfs-fosterhomes@SaultTribe.net.

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Re-Elect Chairman Austin Lowes Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

ABOUT ME

Aaniin! My name is Austin Lowes, and I am humbly asking for your support to be re-elected as the Chairman of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Serving our Tribe has been a great honor, and I will continue to advocate for our people to the best of my abilities. I am a proud father of two children, ages four and eight. I enjoy spending time with my children, backpacking, and fishing the Great Lakes.

CREDENTIALS

I have a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Lake Superior State University, along with a Master's Degree in Clinical Social Work from Michigan State University. I was a Graduate Health Fellow at the National Congress of American Indians. I worked as a child welfare caseworker for the Sault Tribe, the Bay Mills Indian Community, and on the Flathead Indian Reservation in Montana. While in Montana, I received the Governor's Award in Excellence in Performance. In 2020, I was elected as a Unit One Board Member for the Sault Tribe. In 2022, I was elected as the Chairman of the Sault Tribe. Since then, I have become the Vice President of United Tribes of Michigan and the Vice Chairman of Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority (CORA).



Caesars partners with tribe

From "Caesars," page 1 look forward to growing with them in Michigan."

WynnBET's iGaming operations provide Caesars with the unique opportunity to expand further into one of the largest iCasino markets in the U.S. while continuing to operate both Caesars Sportsbook and Caesars Palace Online Casino. Caesars intends to transition the WynnBET iCasino operations in Michigan later this year to one of the flagship gaming brands within the Caesars portfolio. Caesars is committed to a seamless transition and premium customer experience for current WynnBET iGaming customers. More information on Caesars' new iCasino offering will be announced at a later date.

"It was paramount that our next partner in iGaming possessed both expertise in the U.S. iGaming market and a history of strong partnerships in Indian country. We believe we found that with Caesars and look forward to being part of their new iCasino offering," said Austin Lowes, Chairman of Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

The Sault Tribe currently owns and operates Kewadin Casinos, which consist of five land-based casinos located throughout the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

ACHIEVEMENTS

• Increased land base:

Although we have more members than any other Tribe east of the Mississippi River, we are a land poor tribe. It has therefore been a goal throughout my Chairmanship to increase our land-base. In the year-and-a-half that I have been Chairman, I have increased our land-base by roughly 15%. This was accomplished by purchasing a large nature preserve on Sugar Island (560 acres with 7,000 feet of shoreline) and the Sugar Island Pow Wow Grounds.

• Kewadin Casino Renovation:

The Kewadin Casino in Sault Ste. Marie has been the flagship property for our Tribe for decades. It generates tens of millions of dollars in net revenue annually, which pays membership services. Unfortunately, this property was neglected for decades.

Under my Chairmanship, the Tribe began a full renovation of this property. This includes updating our slot machines, renovating property's exterior, and remodeling each of the 260 hotel rooms.

• JLLJ Lawsuit Settlement:

Shortly after being elected Chairman, Ingham County Circuit Court issued an 88-million-dollar judgement against our Tribe. This was based on a failed business deal the Board entered roughly fifteen years ago with developers to build a casino in Lansing at a location that wasn't even in trust. This judgement threatened to bankrupt our Tribe, as its size would have impacted our ability to pay our team members. I was part of the negotiation team that successfully reduced this judgement to a manageable amount, which was paid without having to lay off a single employee.

• **Lodge of Hope:** Native Americans experience housing insecurity at disproportionate rates. I addressed this by spearheading the creation of the Lodge of Hope, which is the only Tribally owned homeless shelter in the State of Michigan. This shelter has been completely full since it opened, and it has provided a safe space for Tribal families to get back on their feet with dignity.

• **Direct Payments:** I supported providing roughly 100-million-dollars in direct payments to our members from the CARES Act and American Rescue Plan. Tribal members received these payments in the form of \$1,000 and \$2,000 checks.

• **Improved Elder Services:** The Tribe now provides traditional foods at each of its elder meal distribution

sites. The Tribe will continue to purchase indigenous food sources to supplement this program, which includes whitefish and bison.

GOALS MOVING FORWARD

- More equitable distribution of resources for at large members.
- Livable wages for our team members.
- Harm reduction services to address the opioid epidemic.
- Affordable housing opportunities for Tribal families, elders, and individuals.
- Improved healthcare services.
- Food sovereignty to implement traditional foods into our diets.
- Increased land base for the next Seven Generations.
- Increased daycare child-care opportunities for working families.
- Line 5 opposition.

This ad is endorsed by Austin Lowes.

Anishinaabemowin 2024

Let this, your language, nourish and sustain your spirit, your life. Savor it one word, one phrase at a time. Welcome home!

Waya na wii kizhebaa-wiisini?!

Does anyone want to eat breakfast?!

Enh, n'bakade. . . Yes, I'm hungry...

miinwaa gegoo minomaagwad!

and something smells good!

Wenesh e-yaamang? What do we have?

N'wii miijin maanda . . .

I will eat this (inanimate item)

giikanaabat	bacon
zaawjiizaan bkwezhigan	toast
gookoosh-wiiaas	ham
nenabigaanh	oatmeal

Wii minopagwad. It will taste good.

N'wii mowaag gonda . . .

I will eat these (animate items)

nabagajisigaanhsak	pancakes
pinik e-zaasgokwaazijig	fried potatoes

Wii minopagozook. They will taste good.

N'wii miijinan nanda . . .

I will eat these (inanimate items)

waawanoon	eggs
nagizhiins	sausages
dewminan	strawberries
waagaanhan	bananas

Wii minopagwadoon.

They will taste good.

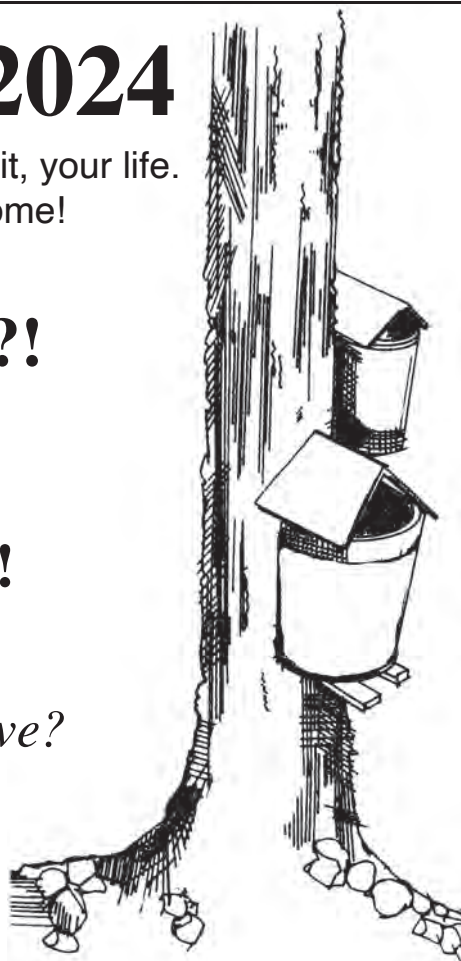
Make up some sentences from these phrases and words, for heaven's sake! Have fun! You are so smart! Go for it! Be bold!

Pronunciation??

You'll find the Anishinaabemowin words in this lesson pronounced at this Facebook link:

www.facebook.com/SaultTribeLanguageAndCulture.

You can also use the guide shown here!



Ziisbaakdoke Giizis Sugar-making Moon

by Susan Askwith

Fun facts about maple syrup and sugar:

- ✿ Our word for the maple tree is **ninaatig**. It comes from the verb **ninaan** which means she or he passes something along in a certain way. (the 'tig' part says 'tree'). So, the maple tree passes on sweet sap, which we then refine to make syrup or sugar.
- ✿ It takes about 40 gallons (**n'go-minakwaajigan**) of sap to make 1 gallon of syrup.
- ✿ One pint of syrup can be boiled down to give one pound (**n'go dbaabiish-koojigan**) of maple sugar.

Fun fact about Anishinaabemowin

We divide the world up into what is alive (*animate*) and what is not alive (*inanimate*). Which-is-which is only memorized — not reasoned out.

We use different words to describe those items. Can you spot them on this page?

Miinwaa n'wii nankii..

and I will use . . .

ninaatig ziisbaakwad	maple sugar
ninaatig ziiwaagmide	maple syrup
zaawaa-mide	butter
baashkaminsigan	jam
niibiishaaboo	tea
makade-aaboo	coffee
maagan	cream
doodooshaaboo	milk
e-zaawmingaanh-aaboo	orange juice



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

aa sounds like the a in *awesome*

a sounds like the a in *about*

ii sounds like the e in *be*

i sounds like the i in *dip*

oo sounds like the o in *go*

o sounds like the oo's in *book*

e sounds like the e in *Ed*

g sounds only like it does in *go*

We underlined the syllables that get the emphasis.

Pronounce all the letters. Big deal: 'nh' in a word has no sound! *It's a sign to say the vowels just before it in a nasal way - as if you had a stuffed up nose from a cold.*

Nelson celebrates 50 years of Munising Moose Lodge membership

BY JENNIFER CHAMPAGNE

In a heartwarming celebration of dedication and community spirit, Anita Nelson marked her 50th year as a proud member of the Munising Moose Lodge. Anita joined the Moose family in 1973, and her journey has been filled with camaraderie, memories, and a deep sense of gratitude for the support she received in her early years when she suffered an eye injury as a child that left her blind in one eye.

Anita's connection to the Moose Lodge goes beyond her personal involvement. Her husband Jim's father, Harry C. Nelson, held the prestigious position of being the first governor of the Munising Moose Lodge. This familial tie adds an extra layer of significance to Anita's half-century commitment to the organization.

During the late '70s, Anita served as a Women of the Moose officer, contributing her time and energy to the lodge's activities. In those days business meetings had a distinctive dress code and Anita proudly wore a white blouse paired with a long black skirt.

Reflecting on her early years of activity, Anita expressed some guilt for not being as involved in recent years due to health issues. Despite this, she cherishes memories of contributing to the community, particularly helping with the fish fry's and rolling dough during pasty preparation.

One of Anita's passions during her younger days was line dancing, a shared interest that strengthened the bonds with her Moose Lodge friends. Armed with instructions for various dances, Anita and her group would hop from bar to bar in the Upper Peninsula, showcasing their dance moves and reveling in the lively Moose Lodge atmosphere.

Anita nostalgically reminisced about the vibrant social scene at the Moose Lodge, especially during dances and music events. She vividly described how the place would be full by 4 p.m. with happy hours leading up to Christmas Eve extravaganzas that lasted until late in the night. The Moose Lodge was the go-to spot, offering a bustling atmosphere and

festive treats like cheeses and sausages.

When Anita initially joined, the Moose Lodge was predominantly for men, with women forming the backbone of the organization. They worked tirelessly behind the scenes, organizing bake sales, preparing meals, and fundraising for various causes. Anita's gratitude for the support she received during a difficult time in her childhood led her to actively participate in these community-oriented initiatives.

The Moose Lodge, situated where the Country Connection once stood, holds a special place in Anita's heart. Over the years, it underwent transformations from a roller rink to the Moose Lodge, and eventually, a church.

Charlie Vartti played a pivotal role in renovating the Moose Lodge building into its current state.

Anita highlighted some mem-



orable moments, including participating in bingo nights, a skill she learned in college, and hosting special events for Halloween and Christmas. She emphasized the sense of belonging, social gatherings, and friendships as the pillars of her Moose Lodge experience. In the spirit of family legacy, Anita's husband, Jim, has a deep connection to the Moose Lodge as well. His sponsor, Russ Spearman, played a crucial role in introducing Jim to the Moose family. Anita's sponsor, her oldest brother Darryl Bebo, further solidifies the family ties within the Moose Lodge.

As Anita Nelson celebrates her remarkable 50-year milestone, her journey reflects not only a membership in a lodge but a lifetime of shared memories, community support, and enduring friendships at the heart of Munising. The Nelson family's legacy in the Munising Moose Lodge continues to flourish, weaving a story of commitment, tradition, and community spirit.

Anita is a member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Reprinted with permission.

SAULT TRIBE TRADITIONAL MEDICINE PROGRAM

2024 APRIL HEALER'S CLINIC HOURS

GERARD SAGASSIGE

April 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 29, 30
Sault Ste. Marie Health Center
(906) 632-0236
Lori Gambardella

Wednesday, April 3rd
St. Ignace Health Center
(906) 643-8689 or (877) 256-0135

Wednesday, April 10th
Manistique Health Center
(906) 341-8469 or (866) 401-0043

Wednesday, April 17th
Hessel Community Center
(906) 484-2727

GEORGE GOGGLEYE

April 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19
Sault Ste. Marie Health Center
(906) 632-0236
Lori Gambardella

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

Sault Tribe Traditional Medicine Program

WOMEN'S FAST FOR MOTHER EARTH

SATURDAY, April 27th 2024

FASTING BEGINS AT SUNRISE AND ENDS AT SUNSET, FOLLOWED BY A SWEAT LODGE AND FEAST.

@ MARY MURRAY CULTURE CAMP, 266 HOMESTEAD RD. SUGAR ISLAND, MI

MUST BE 18 YEARS OR OLDER, ANYONE UNDER 18 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL LORI, KATRINA, OR AUTUMN
906-632-0236, 906-632-0220, OR 906-632-5268

Sault Tribe Traditional Medicine Program

SPRING FASTING CAMP 2024



THURSDAY, APRIL 25TH - SUNDAY, APRIL 28TH
@Mary Murray Culture Camp, 266 Homestead Rd. Sugar Island, MI

MUST BE 18 YEARS OR OLDER, ANYONE UNDER 18 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL LORI, KATRINA, OR AUTUMN
906-632-0236, 906-632-0220, OR 906-632-5268

NAMEBINI GIIZIS - SUCKERFISH MOON - APRIL 2024

NIIZHWAASO GIIZHIGAT	NTAM GIIZHIGAT	NIIZHO GIIZHIGAT	NSWO GIIZHIGAT	NIIVO GIIZHIGAT	NAANO GIIZHIGAT	NOODWAASWO GIIZHIGAT
	1  aki (land/earth.)	2  Maadagiza. (It is the beginning of the month.)	3  Nimkiikaa. (There are lots of thunders.)	4  Goon Igizi. (The snow is melting.)	5  Giigoonhke. (S/he is fishing.)	6  Gimiwan. (It is raining.)
7  pichi (robin)	8  Minookimik. (It is Spring.)	9  Gliibaastaagazin! (Say something silly!)	10  waabanang (in the East)	11  shki blmaadiziwin (new life)	12  namebini (suckerfish)	13  name (sturgeon)
14  Tisige. (S/he is coloring/dyeing.)	15  waaboozoonh (rabbit)	16  Blikaa. (There are mud puddles.)	17  Bildaaban. (It is the light before sunrise.)	18  kookibinaagan (basket)	19  baakaakwenh (chicken)	20  zhiishiibenhsag (ducklings)
21  waawaanoon (eggs)	22  Shkaakamakwe Glizhigod	23  Mooshkaneshin Dibiki Glizis (It is a full moon.)	24  Gchi noodin. (It is very windy.)	25  kibi (spring water)	26  bgoji zhigaangwizhi (wild leek)	27  Shkaakamakwe (mother earth)
28  ozisigobimizh or zisgomizh (pussywillow)	29  kwe maanzinan (lady slippers)	30  waawaaskone. (flower)				

Calendar created by Sault Tribe Language & Culture Division

Walking on...

WINIFRED "WINNIE" JOY (WACHTER) WERTZ

Winifred "Winnie" Joy (Wachter) Wertz, 84, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., passed away on Jan. 16, 2024.

Her life began on Aug. 2, 1939, in Naubinway, Mich., to William "Bill" Henry and Ellaree Joy (Davenport) Wachter.

Winnie's story continued in Marquette, Mich., where she graduated from Marquette High School. She earned her diploma in nursing and worked as an LPN. Eventually, life brought her back to Marquette with her three daughters and she worked at St. Mary's Hospital. Several years later she and her daughters moved to Cadillac, Mich. She had a dream of running an adult foster care home, which she eventually fulfilled, owning and operating the Brightwood Adult Foster Care Home. Winnie met the love of her life, Robert (Bob) C. Wertz, and they married on June 23, 1990. She and Bob continued their lives in Cadillac raising his three daughters. Bob worked as an associate pastor at the Cadillac First Baptist Church and helped Winnie run the Adult Foster Care home for more than eight years. They moved to Sault Ste. Marie in 2005 and have continued to live there to be closer to family.



Winnie, ever the loving big sister, took in her younger brother Gary and was his primary caregiver and partner in crime for over 26 years.

Winnie had a love for the Lord and an unshakeable faith knowing Jesus was her savior. She was a member of several church communities throughout her life- Calvary Baptist Church in Sault Ste. Marie, First Baptist Church in Cadillac, The Marion Community Church and the Hulbert Missionary Baptist Church. Winnie, named Mish Kwan E Kwet Do Kwe (Red Cloud Woman) by the tribe healer, was an elder in the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians and embraced her Native American Heritage. Also a lover of history, she took pride in being the great-great-granddaughter of Yankee rebel Ambrose R. Davenport from Mackinac Island (Daughters of the American Revolution). She was a fierce woman with strength and courage which helped her through any adversity she faced throughout her life. We know she is in heaven watching over us with all of those who have gone before her. Winnie loved her girls and all of her grandchildren- calling herself the "Granny Nanny." They all brought immeasurable joy to her heart. Her interests abounded, she was always ready for an adventure or traveling. She loved reading good books, crocheting, the water, collecting teddy bears, gardening, and going to Rotary Park

with Bob to watch the boats (of course while enjoying a shrimp basket from Clyde's Drive-In.).

Winnie is survived by her husband, Robert; daughters, Carol Murphy, Melanie (Bret) Homer, Roberta Tschirhart, Rebekah (Steve) Wauck, Jennifer (David) Wilson, and Bethany Miller; grandchildren, Analise (Cody) Frazier, Mackensie (Vicki) Murphy, Austin Tschirhart, Katey Homer, Drew Homer, Genesis Wilson, David Wilson, Grace Wilson, Peityn Miller, Gabriel Wauck and one on the way; and finally her great-grandchildren, Bellamy & Sullivan Frazier, and Anson Murphy. Her brothers, Richard (Betty) Wachter, and Carrolle Gene "Geno" Wachter; and many beloved nieces and nephews.

Winnie was preceded in death by her parents, William and Ellaree; and brothers, Donald (Lois) Wachter, Robert "Cy" (Genevieve) Wachter, and Gary Wachter.

A family memorial gathering was held on Jan. 30, 2024, at the Calvary Baptist Church in Sault Ste. Marie followed by a public memorial service.

Should friends or family desire, monetary gifts may be sent to Bob via Venmo @ Robert-Wertz-24 (last 4 digits of his phone number are 3833) to help with expenses during this time. Condolences may also be left to the family at www.galerfuneral-homes.com.

Family Life Funeral Home

assisted the family with arrangements.

ROBERT EUGENE MYOTTE

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Robert Eugene Myotte, a beloved husband, father, uncle, grandfather, and pillar of the Marlette, Mich. community. He peacefully departed this life on Feb. 23, 2024, surrounded by his loving family

at the Marlette Regional Hospital Extended Care Facility.

Born on Nov. 25, 1935, in Sault Ste Marie, Mich., Robert was the son of the late Joseph and



See "Walking on," page 11

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LARRY
BARBEAU
FOR
UNIT 4

VOTE

MY PRIORITIES:



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



Expanding the availability of tribal housing in Unit 4.



Prioritize the needs and preferences of our Elders



Furthering Opioid treatment efforts



Promote healing from traumas caused by Indian boarding schools.



Separation of power

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

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

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

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

VOTE FOR CHANGE

LARRY BARBEAU ENDORSES THIS ADVERTISEMENT

DeTour Health Center offers comprehensive care

FROM COMMUNITY HEALTH

DeTour Tribal Health Center offers comprehensive health-care, addressing not only immediate concerns but also promoting long-term wellness.

DeTour Community Health is dedicated to offering a wide range of services designed to encompass all aspects of patients' health and promoting their overall wellness.

Services offered include home assessments, medication management, coordination of care and services, medication pick-up, lab drawing station, footcare, immunizations, health education, registered dietician services, diabetes nurse education, car seat program, Nike shoe program, hypertension program, incontinence supplies, community gardens and telemedicine.

DeTour Tribal Health Center offers preventative care as well, including comprehensive screenings, health assessments, and patient education to empower patients with information to make informed decisions about their health.

Sault Tribe members are eligible for all services.

Eligibility for members of other federally-recognized Native American tribes, non-Native American spouses and Sault Tribe employees varies by service, based on eligibility criteria.

DeTour Tribal Health Center is located at 200 Superior Street in DeTour.

Call for an appointment at (906) 442-0111.

Community Health Nursing Services:

- Health Assessment and Monitoring
- Case Management
- Medication Management
- Home Safety Assessments
- Injections/Immunizations (including Flu and Covid Clinics)
- Phlebotomy
- Foot Care Clinics
- Education on Disease Processes and Management
- HTN Case Management Program
- Hearing and Vision Screenings (DOT, EHS/HS and Areas Schools)
- Health Fairs/Community Outreach Events
- Community Gardens (Hessel and DeTour)

OTHER COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES OFFERED

- Medication Pick Up from Tribal Pharmacies (DeTour and Hessel locations)
- Nutrition Education
- Diabetes Education Services
- Audiology (Sault, St. Ignace, Munising and Manistique)
- Telemedicine - Hessel (appointments available) and DeTour (coming soon)



DeTour Tribal Health Center is located at 200 Superior St. in downtown DeTour.

- Traditional Medicine Program (Hessel site only)
 - Car Seat Program
 - Nike Shoe Program
 - Incontinence Supplies
 - CPR Classes
 - Breast Pump Loan Program
 - Medical Fitness Program
 - Nicotine Dependence Program/Smoking Cessation
 - Group Education Classes
- If you have any questions regarding services, please reach out to Jenni O'Dell, Nursing Supervisor at (906) 632-5200 ext. 45259 – jo'dell@saulttribe.net.

Re-Elect SORENSON for Unit 3

PROVEN - TRUSTED - RELIABLE LEADERSHIP

Experienced & Knowledgeable

- ✓ Bachelors Degree in Business Administration
- ✓ Associates Degree in Business Management
- ✓ Held a real estate license for 10 years
- ✓ Entire career has been with our tribe
- ✓ Chairman's intern in EDC
- ✓ Human Resources Employment Representative
- ✓ Kewadin Shores Casino Administration



PLEASE VOTE
Sorenson for Unit 3

I am humbled by your continuous support!!



Bridgett Sorenson Unit 3
Sault Tribe Board of Directors

Please contact me at
bridgett91@yahoo.com or
906-430-0536

Paid for and endorsed by Bridgett Sorenson.

ATTENTION

RESIDENTS OF DRUMMOND & MACKINAC ISLANDS ENROLLED IN THE PRC PROGRAM

RESIDENTS OF DRUMMOND & MACKINAC ISLANDS ENROLLED IN THE PURCHASED REFERRED CARE (PRC) PROGRAM ARE EXEMPT FROM SEEKING URGENT MEDICAL SERVICES AT A TRIBAL HEALTH FACILITY PRIOR TO SEEKING URGENT CARE FROM ANOTHER PROVIDER LOCATED ON MACKINAC & DRUMMOND ISLANDS FOR THE MONTHS OF NOVEMBER, DECEMBER, JANUARY, AND FEBRUARY.

PURCHASED REFERRED CARE OFFICE
3RD FLOOR OF THE SAULT TRIBE HEALTH CENTER
2864 ASHMUN ST, SAULT STE. MARIE, MI 49783

1-800-922-0582
906-632-5220
FAX 906-632-5248

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

Please Vote:

AARON PAYMENT PAID FOR & ENDORSED THIS AD



Over the years, I've given over \$60K in Tribal Scholarships, and \$25,000 for Children's Christmas Parties. Austin and Betty are partners in giving.

PAYMENT

~ Unit 1 ~ Sault Tribe Board of Directors ~

My entire career has been in service to Our Sault Tribe People and to benefit all Indian people. I am prepared to work hard to support a team effort with Chairman Austin Lowes, Treasurer Isaac McKechnie, Board Members Betty Freiheit, Rob McRorie, and the rest of the New & Improved Board. We have so much work to do.

Please return me to the Board so we can get back to work.

~ Chi McGwitch, Aaron

OUR TOP TRIBAL PRIORITIES FOR OUR FUTURE:

- Unify Sault Tribe Membership (Inside & At Large)
- Replenish & Grow Elder Fund to Increase Dividend\$
- Increase/ Expand Benefits for ALL Tribal Members
- Will Work with Chairman Lowes, Betty & New Board
- Mentor/ Share Knowledge & Skills with New Board
- Attend ALL Conservation/ Treaty Fishing Meetings
- Return Unit 1 Monthly Member Meetings & Video Chats
- Restore Positive National Tribal Reputation
- Base MI Tuition Waiver on Enrollment Not 1/4 Blood
- Increase Tribal Higher Ed & Vocational Funding
- Sault Tribe Community College General Education
- Push for National Level Tribal Health Insurance Card
- Elder Mail Order Scripts & Medicare Supplements
- Tribal, Inter-Tribal & National Fight against Opiate Crisis
- Child Care Subsidy for Working Class Members
- Treaty & Tribal Membership Rights Enforced
- Standing in Tribal Court to Protect Your Tribal Rights
- Codify Tribal Preference in Hiring/ Set Goals
- Increase Pay Casino/ Enterprise / Govt Team Members
- Administrative Law Judge to Protect Your Job
- 3 Branch Government ~ Real Separation of Powers
- Create a Respectful Tribal Government *We can Trust*

EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE

Growing up on Shunk Road. I never dreamed I'd have the opportunity to serve you at the highest levels as...

- Unit 1 Tribal Board (2 terms), Tribal Chairperson (4 terms), Vice Chairperson (2 terms)
- National Congress of American Indians ~ 1st Vice President (2 terms), Secretary (2 terms), Regional VP
- President/ Vice President (10 years total) Mid-West Alliance of Sovereign Tribes
- President/ Vice President (12 years total) United Tribes of Michigan
- HHS Secretary Tribal Advisory Council (3 terms & Co-Chair) ~ NIH Tribal Advisory (Chair 2 terms)
- Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration Tribal Advisory
- Health Resources Services Administration & Office of Minority Health Research Tribal Advisories
- Center for Indigenous Innovation and Health Equity Tribal Advisory
- Past President and Board Member of the Joseph K. Lumsden Tribal School Board
- Past Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority Board
- Michigan Political Leadership Program Instructor on Tribal Government & Sovereignty (30 years)

All of My Jobs Have Been in Service To Our People and All Indian People...

- Vice President of Tribal Relations and Learning ~ Native Owned Tribal Consulting Management Firm
- Government Relations Director ~ National Indian Health Board (to IHS get advance appropriations passed)
- Deputy Executive Director & Judicial Branch Division Director (Sault Tribe)
- Federal - State Policy Administrator & Special Assistant to the Tribal Chairperson (Sault Tribe)
- LSSU Tenure Track College Instructor in Political Science & Native American Studies (taught statistics)
- MSU Native Student Services Coordinator ~ NMU Native American Retention Coordinator
- Housekeeping/ Groundskeeper/ Housing Rehabs and Janitor ~ (Sault Tribe)

A High School Drop Out at 15. I Earned my GED at 16 & went on to Earn a Higher Education...

- Doctorate Degree in Educational Leadership
- 3 Master's Degrees in Education Specialist, Higher Education & Master's in Public Administration
- Bachelor's Degree in Sociology ~ Minor in Psychology/Counseling



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

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

~ Congresswoman Deb Haaland

If you would like to Volunteer to help Elect Aaron Payment to the Unit 1 Sault Tribe Board, Please contact Me At:

PHONE: 906-203-5159

EMAIL: aaronpayment@yahoo.com

ADDRESS: 1716 Shunk Rd., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Walking on continued from page 8

From "Walking on," page 8
 Alphonsis (McKerchie) Myotte and step-father Stanley Pringle. He is also preceded by his siblings and brother and sisters-in-law; Rita (Dale Baier) McPhail, Phillip (Marilyn) Myotte, Joanne Bernice Mayer, Leona LaJoie, Helen Beacom and brother-in-law Doug Ebel. He is survived by his wife Joyce, sister-in-law Barb Ebel, brothers-in-law Rolland Mayer and Gary Beacom.

Robert, fondly known as Bob, met the love of his life, the former Canadian, Joyce McCoag, during her nursing studies. What started as a clever ruse to seek assistance with his chemistry class turned into a beautiful journey of love and companionship spanning nearly 62 years. Together, they built a life filled with laughter, joy, and a steadfast commitment to each other.

Bob was a dedicated husband and a great father to Deb (Darryl) Leveille of Marlette and Ron (Melinda) Myotte of Frankfort, Ill. His pride and joy were his grandchildren, Ryan Leveille, Eric Leveille, Nathan Myotte, and Elizabeth Myotte, whom he guided and supported in various ways throughout their lives.

Growing up on a rural farm in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, Bob learned the value of hard work and perseverance. After graduating high school, he worked at a local lumber yard and pursued higher education, ultimately graduating from Northern Michigan University in 1962. His commitment to serving others led him to the U.S. Army, where he served from 1959 to 1961.

Bob's passion for education led him to a fulfilling career as an industrial arts teacher at Marlette Community Schools from 1963 to 1988. He often spent additional time assisting students and former students with their projects. Even in retirement, he continued to showcase his woodworking talents through his successful business, Fine Woodworking Creations. His handcrafted products brought joy to many and stand as a testament to his craftsmanship.

A man of diverse interests, Bob was a founding member of the Marlette Sportsman's Club, where he served the youth as a hunter's safety instructor. He enjoyed hunting various wild game, muzzleloader building, and competitive shooting. He was also a member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians. As a faithful member of the First Presbyterian Church of Marlette, he found solace in his spiritual community.

Summers were a cherished time for the Myotte family, who spent many joyful years enjoying a week together at the Wildwood Family Resort in Ontario. Bob was also known for his prowess in euchre and cribbage, his quick wit, and his wry smile, often leaving others astounded with his brash but successful tactics.

Bob's legacy lives on in the countless woodworks he crafted and the kind heart he had for others. He will be dearly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him, but his memory will forever endure in the com-

munity he loved and served so faithfully.

The family would like to especially thank the entire staff at the Extended Care Facility and United Hospice for the loving care and support.

Visitation was held on Feb. 27, 2024 at the Marsh Funeral Chapel in Marlette followed by a funeral service at the First Presbyterian Church in Marlette on Feb. 28.

Memorials may be made to the First Presbyterian Church in Marlette or United Hospice Services of Marlette Regional Hospital.

Friends may share an online condolence at www.marshfuneral.com

Arrangements have been entrusted to Marsh Funeral Chapel, 2675 Main St., Marlette, MI 48453. Phone (989) 635-3658.

VICTORIA JANELL (SMART) POWELS

Victoria Janell (Smart) Powels, 32, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., died on Feb. 20, 2024.



She was born on May 14, 1991, in Minneapolis, Minn., to Contessia (Smart) Vincent.

Victoria grew up in Sault Ste. Marie and graduated from Sault Area High School with the class of 2009.

Victoria was a member of the First United Presbyterian Church where she sang in the youth choir. She attended Presbytery Point Camp during the summers and went to Louisiana on a mission trip with the church's youth group.

Victoria enjoyed playing games on her phone, watching her favorite TV shows, having BBQs with family and playing cards. She was a people person with a big heart. Victoria was very outgoing and liked hanging out with her friends and family. Her children Robert and Jacy and dog Cookie were a big piece of her life and she loved them more

than anything.

Victoria is survived by her son, Robert Noah Leon; daughter, Jacy Janell Leon; mom, Terri Marsh; biological mother, Contessia Vincent; stepfather, Raymond Lee Vincent; grandfather, Dennis Smart; stepsister, Ashlee (Jon) Vincent; stepbrothers, Raymond (Braylyn) Vincent, and Tyler (Melisa) Vincent; aunts and uncles, Mick (Tracy) Smart,

Torey Smart, Larry Marsh, Janice Shannon, Sarah (Jesse) Smart, and Ben (Becky) Forejt; and cousins, Samantha (Josh) Smart, Trenton Smart, Ford (Jasmine) Smart, Shelby (Hunter) Smart, Hailey (Ben) Smart, Brooklyn Smart, Kylee Smart, Mercedes (Fred) Lounsberry, Stephanie and Christopher Shannon, Randy, Raymond, Ben, and Stacey Forejt.

Victoria was preceded in death by her great-great-grandma, Mina Farrish; and great-grandparents, Franklin and Phyllis Forejt.

A memorial gathering was held at the Sault Tribe Cultural Center on Feb. 26-27. A traditional ceremony and a Christian service were held Feb. 28.

Memorial contributions can be made in Victoria's name to EUP. See "Walking on," page 21

FIND YOUR CAREER WITH THE SAULT STE. MARIE TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS!

Join our team of professionals!

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accounting Legal Natural Resources Environmental Education Housing Child Care Head Start Tribal Administration MIS/IT Social Services Recreation/Chi Mukwa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communications Eldercare Services Health Care Behavioral Health Construction Economic Development Human Resources Tribal Court Law Enforcement Cultural Retail Golf Course AND MORE!
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- Excellent Benefits
- Competitive Wages
- 13 Paid Holidays
- Paid Time Off
- Education, Cultural, and Medical Leave
- Qualified Employer – Student Loan Forgiveness
- Paid Student Internship Options
- Longevity Recognition
- 401k Retirement – Employer Contribution
- Flexible Shifts & Remote Work Options

SCAN TO SEE OUR
EMPLOYMENT
OPPORTUNITIES

Sault Tribe Governmental Human Resource Department
 2186 Shunk Rd. Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
 (906) 635-4937
APPLY ONLINE: www.saulttribe.com

Continue Moving Forward Together

VOTE MICHAEL MCKERCHIE - UNIT 1 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Facebook: VoteMcKerchie
"Michael McKerchie"
Call or text (906) 748-7859

With your support, I promise to continue working to:

- **Improve existing infrastructure** including reinvesting back in our casinos, hotel, and cultural buildings, among others; and we've expanded our school, added several community and/or health centers and are exploring additional health services opportunities downstate.
- **Protect our treaty rights**, as part of negotiating team we have and continue to fight for both commercial and subsistence fishing in the Great Lakes.
- **Advance our team members working environment**; continue to improve wages, provide better protection from Board interference, and enhance our policies to help managers and directors achieve their goals.
- **Better our tribe's economic development**; several new tribal businesses have been established including online Gaming, Gitchi Auto and Home Sales, Golf Courses, Sault Tribe Inc. and many more.

RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP FOR ALL MEMBERS

THIS AD IS ENDORSED BY MICHAEL MCKERCHIE

Vote Michael J. Lumsden Sault Tribe Unit 1 Board of Directors

A leader to work with the new Board of Directors to stop the losses, scammers, incompetence, dysfunction, and to help launch a new era of constitutional governance and successful development!

Excitement in our tribe is growing about electing new Board Members to replace the corrupt, relics (failed, remaining old guard Board Members) from a soon-to-be bygone tribal era (old guard) who have been misgoverning our tribe for 2, 3, even 5 consecutive terms of office (20 years) with failure, millions of dollars in losses, political scams and overall bad government being the disastrous result. These are the old guard Board Members who refuse to allow constitutional governance because they want to decide who has rights based on if a person is their relative and if they like them or not. They are staunch believers in banning their political opposition because they don't respect our rights, our Constitution, and they fear competition because they are weak. These bumbling Board Members forced a legitimately elected chairperson to resign because they did not like who the voters elected so they tried to illegitimately force their misguided choice for chairperson on the membership without an election (anti-democratic/tyrannical) by appointing him chairperson after he had just been rejected by the voters in Unit 1. These scammers acted against the decision of the voters (defied the voters) and put their coup leader, co-conspirator and scammer in charge who had helped lead the old guard to failure and losses. These old guard Board Members are working against the overall best interests of the membership and have cost our tribe millions of dollars in losses and lost development opportunities. They are scammers, incompetent and they must be fired by the voters. They consider the voters obstacles to be overcome, and when necessary, with scams, they are threats to democracy and tribal resources, and don't belong in positions of power. They are arrogant and mistakenly think voters aren't paying attention, so they take bold, outrageous, anti-democratic, unconstitutional actions hoping no one will try to stop them; they are wrong!

Our tribe desperately needs more new leaders with the skills and vision to financially grow the organization. For many years, the Board of Directors has been stifled by infighting, political scams, incompetence, investigations, and battles to remove each other from office because Board Members lacked a vision (a plan) to move our tribe forward. Instead of rational, common-sense governance based on establishing (planning) realistic organizational goals and working to achieve them, our tribe has been mired in corrupt, dysfunctional, short-sighted, emotional, unstable governance that has hindered its development for years and cost it millions of dollars in losses (for example, the Lansing casino debacle). As a result, development opportunities have been lost and money that should've been spent on tribal

members has been wasted on failed projects. If this dysfunctional governance continues, our tribe cannot grow financially and failure should be expected. Tribal voters can end this incompetent governance by voting for new, skilled, stable leaders, leaders that will avoid wasting time and money on infighting because they understand government and business, so they will remain focused on making money and enacting sound policy to drive success for the tribe. That is what Michael J. Lumsden will do when he is elected to office. Tribal voters must protect our tribe from further financial harm (losses) by electing new, strong leaders with the vision to make our tribe successful. Board Members have a responsibility to the membership to provide quantifiable, successful leadership. When they fail and financially harm the tribe, they must be fired.

Vote for Michael J. Lumsden and he will work with the Board of Directors to create a high-functioning board that has the skills to avoid losses from infighting and scammers. To establish an effective Board of Directors the voters must elect talented, experienced, rational, knowledgeable leaders so our tribe can gain the help it needs to turn the organization around so it can flourish. A Board of Directors bogged-down by infighting and hatred has no chance of making money for the voters, dysfunctional Board Members must be replaced in this election to unleash the potential of our tribe. The tribe's financial history of project failures and millions of dollars in losses is overwhelming evidence for tribal voters to replace failed Board Members with competent leaders that possess the skills to financially grow the organization. Voters deserve better than Board Members that make reckless decisions hoping that more federal dollars will somehow mysteriously appear to fix the financial problems they cause.

Furthermore, in the recent Special Advisory Election, an Election Committee member and a sister of a candidate (should've recused herself) running for the Board of Directors was allowed to open ballot envelopes (ridiculous) which reminded me of another scam when the Board of Directors and the Election Committee counted blank ballots as votes (fraud) to meet the tribal constitution's 30% voter participation requirement for a referendum to keep me banned from running for office. Failure, millions of dollars in losses and corruption should not be rewarded with another term in office, it's time the voters sent these old guard Board Members to look for a new job. Our tribe cannot afford to keep incompetent old guard Board Members in office, please help our tribe by voting for new leaders. The new Board Members are working diligently to move past these obsolete, incom-



Michael J. Lumsden

petent, dysfunctional, unstable, bygone-era, career tribal politicians and the voters can help by voting these relics out of office.

Moreover, Board Members have announced plans for expansions of tribal services without any financial analysis or impact studies, and the money for such expansions does not even exist; this is foolish. They act like it's the early 1990s and the tribe's casino revenue is increasing substantially — it's not. It's just a ploy to get votes and it's reckless, irresponsible governance, and this lack of vision (planning) demonstrates why our tribe is going backwards. Tribal members are frustrated because they are constantly being lied to. They are sick and tired of their leaders failing them. It's time for new Board Members that possess the skills to fulfill the important role of leader. Based on their records the old guard Board Members do not deserve to be re-elected, and when seeking re-election they try to con the voters with grandiose promises that will never be realized because millions of dollars have been wasted, it's gone, (they repeat the same old worn-out promises every election) so tribal voters should be very excited about ridding their Board of Directors of useless, dysfunctional, seat-warmers that have held our tribe back for years and cost it millions of dollars in losses of their money! This is money that should've helped tribal members but was lost because of inept decisions and scams. The voters must seize this opportunity to rescue our tribe from weak Board Members whose foolish decisions, scams, and infighting have cost our tribe millions of dollars in losses and damaged its reputation in pursuing any future ventures. As Americans and tribal members, we should all celebrate the opportunity to vote incompetent, dysfunctional Board Members out of office and replace them with leaders to help us succeed!

Vote **Michael J. Lumsden** to help save millions of dollars by stopping the political scams, to put our tribe back together, to grow financially, to expand programs, and to bring constitutional government to our tribe. God bless America and our tribe!

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

Reading month celebrated at Lake Superior State University

BY SCOTT BRAND

Complete with balloons, costumes, dancers and free books, E.U.P. Reads brought hundreds of people to the Cisler Center on the campus of Lake Superior State University on March 11.

This year's theme was "It's Reading Month! Let's Party!"

and that seemed to resonate with those in attendance. Seemingly any agency that had anything to do with reading came out to celebrate. JKL Bahweting Elementary School had multiple tables at the event joining representatives from the Sault Area Public Schools, Bay Mills Community College

(BMCC), the Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District (EUPISD), the Chippewa County Health Department and a host of other entities to promote reading.

There was no dress code in place and visitors were encouraged to wear costumes if desired.

While many parents and children came in their regular school or work clothes, others took it another level opting for festive shirts, party hats, and costumes including two individuals who went all in for the gathering with one donning an elephant costume and another who showed up as a

penguin.

Countless books were on display and made available fulfilling the mission of providing at least one free book to every child who attended with an added bonus for a few lucky attendees who scored in the periodic door prize drawings throughout the evening.



Gifted and Talented Teacher Susan Solomon of JKL Bahweting is joined by Claudia Bernier, 9, a fourth grade student.



Tommye, 7, waits with her mom Mrs. Ackerman and Mrs. Lujan for the next round of visitors.



Faith Gaubault from Bay Mills Community College Early Childhood Development helps five-year-old Noah Kostelyk catch a fish from the special pond made for this event.



The Elephant, Jerzie Moore, greeted visitors with 11-year-old Lola Donmeyer.



Members of the JKL Bahweting Student Council, Piper Bernier, Rowan Carter, Jerzie Moore, Melinda Wychopen and Sophia Palmer provided materials for pom-pom construction at their table.



ASAO Dance Studio, led by Instructor Ashley Burger, was represented by front row (left to right) Brianna Hoolsema, Kali Bitnar, Mary Maloney, and Mackenzie Tominac and back row, Jader Hoolsema, Jasmine Hoolsema, Elisia Voris, Elizabeth Maloney and Brooklynn Hoolsema. They performed in the hallway throughout the evening as the individual rooms were far too crowded this year.



Astrid Blissett, 6, enjoyed the painting station before moving on to other tables.



Natalie McLeod, 7 was excited to meet the ASAO dancers Mackenzie Tominac and Jasmine Hoolsema.

Autumn Tremblay scores one-thousand points

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Sault Tribe Board of Directors Board Administrator Lona Stewart is a proud grandmother. Her oldest granddaughter, Autumn Tremblay, earned her long-time goal of shooting one-thousand points in basketball this season. Tremblay is a senior at Brimley High School and her last chance to achieve this accomplishment on home court was on Feb. 27.

Stewart said that going in to Tuesday's game, Autumn needed 34 points to hit the thousand mark. The highest total for her in a single game prior to that Tuesday was 31; she got thirty-seven points that game, scoring 21 in the first quarter alone. During the game she sprained her ankle and still went on to get her 1,000th point and three bonus points.

Autumn is the third girl in Brimley's history to achieve this accomplishment.

Autumn's mother, Jordan Tremblay, said, "She's not just a great basketball player, but she's an amazing team mate, she's an amazing daughter, friend, granddaughter, and sister too! Her heart is very kind."

Tremblay said that going into the game, she knew she wanted to hit 1,000 on her home court but was nervous because scoring 34 points in one game is a lot. She said she "...just had a good feeling it was going to be my night. Being the third girl ever in Brimley history to achieve 1,000 points is something I've dreamed of since I was in fourth grade. I'm proud of myself for achieving this goal."

Playing sports is more challenging for



Photo by Shianne Bathey
Autumn Tremblay on a jump shot.

Tremblay than most, she was born blind in one eye. "Playing basketball and being blind in one eye has been a challenge, but I've found ways to overcome it," she said. "We've made adjustments to our defense; I only play defense on the right side so I can see my opponent and the ball. I don't shoot outside of the paint often because my percentages aren't very high and I think that's due to the fact that I hardly have depth perception. But we shoot a lot in practice



Photo by Angela Leask
Tremblays family - From left: Brian Tremblay II, Adriana Tremblay, Alaina Tremblay, Brian Tremblay I with Blake Tremblay on his shoulders, Autumn Tremblay, Jordan Tremblay, Lona Stewart and Atalia Tremblay.

and the muscle memory helps a lot. I like being blind, I think it makes my accomplishments that much more impressive."

Tremblay started playing basketball in the fourth grade and the following year joined the elementary school's elite team to get more practice and quickly fell in love with the game. "I remember hearing about the 1,000-point club and instantly wanted to be a part of it. I have a piece

of paper from a homework assignment in the fourth grade listing our goals and my number one goal was to score 1,000 points before graduating high school," she said.

Tremblay plans to attend Bay Mills Community College for her general education courses before transferring to Northern Michigan University in Marquette, Mich., where she plans to earn a master's degree in elementary education.

Everett Eldon Hersh welcomed



Everett Eldon Hersh was born Feb. 9 at 7:35 p.m. weighing six pounds and 15 ounces and stretching 20 inches in length. Proud parents are Marde and Naomi Hersh, grandparents are Winny and Bill Yates and Mel and George Hersh, and great-grandparents are Serena and Jim Forgrave, and Carol Yates. Everett was born in Fort Collins, Colorado and got to the mountains as quickly as he could! Parents Marde and Naomi are excited for all the outdoor adventures they get to experience as a family.

Sault Ste. Marie Elder Center — March Birthdays



Sault Elder Center - March 2024 birthdays were celebrated by Brenda Cook, Judy Schwiderson and Lois Payment.

Bay Mills Indian Community hires Grey Shea as newly-created cultural language educator

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Sault Tribe member Grey Shea has accepted a newly created governmental position within the Bay Mills Indian Community (BMIC) of cultural language educator.

Shea said the newly created grant-funded position will help revitalize and increase the community's fluency in their traditional language. "I will host various events and create language resources for the Bay Mills Indian Community and other community members. These will of course be open to everyone."

Shea said the grant was awarded to BMIC by the Department of Health and Human Services – Administration for Children and Families' Administration for Native Americans (ANA) for the FY 2023 Native American Language Preservation and Maintenance Project. It's a three-year \$363,000 grant to provide cultural and language instruction within the community.

Shea said workshops and resources will be available for anyone interested in learning Anishinaabemowin. "The risk of language loss is considered high in our Anishinaabe communities, given the limited number of fluent speakers and the loss of our first language speakers as they age. A BMIC Census was done a few years ago which included questions regarding language and culture. Out of 383 respondents to a question about their fluency levels, only two (0.5%) marked themselves as fluent, while 166 (43.3%) marked themselves as none. The census also showed that there is recognition of the importance of Anishinaabemowin in our tribal communities and great interest in language-centered events," she said.

Shea said the two main objectives of the project are to develop a language proficiency scale to measure the development of language skills within the BMIC community and to develop language resources for the tribe and the community.

Part of the groundwork for the new lan-



guage program will be providing language enrichment cultural awareness trainings and professional development for BMIC staff and departments. "We would like to see more Anishinaabemowin usage throughout all of BMIC, including government and enterprise settings. An exciting aspect of this will be organizing the transition of and creating new signage throughout BMIC to include Anishinaabemowin," Shea said. "I will also be recruiting instructors for cultural activities and events and collaborating with external organizations like Bay Mills Community College, Lake Superior State University, Ojibwe Charter School, Brimley Area Schools, the U.S. Forest Service and

more to provide culturally relevant teachings."

A large portion of the grant will be used for planning various activities and events for the community, such as game nights, feasts, traditional craft workshops, storytelling with first speakers, children's story hours, teen nights, a language fair, and more. Shea said she will be creating language handouts, lessons, and videos to go along with events and activities. Learning materials and resources will be posted to their new Facebook page – Bay Mills Language and Culture at facebook.com/bay-millslanguageculture.

Shea said she started her own Anishinaabemowin learning journey in 2016 when she took the Native American Beadwork Styles class at Northern Michigan University (NMU). "I was majoring in Clinical Laboratory Science at the time and wanted to enroll in a class that wasn't

a hard science course because I needed a break. I had gone to a beading class a few times before at BMCC. In that class my teacher taught us the Anishinaabemowin word for beads – manidoominensag – which translates to spirit seed. I was fascinated by that word and its deeper meaning so I took my first Anishinaabemowin class the next semester. I learned about how important Anishinaabemowin is to our culture, how it carries all of our teachings, as well as the risk of losing it, so I signed up for the next language class. I eventually switched my major to Native American Studies. After graduating from NMU in 2019, I began

working for Sault Tribe Language and Culture for three years where I voluntarily started managing the Anishinaabemowin component of the department and working with the language instructors to create Anishinaabemowin recordings and resources," she said.

During this time, she enrolled in the Anishinaabemowin Pane Immersion Program at BMCC. She accepted a position with the Advocacy Resource Center for one year as the cultural healing educator, where she provided language lessons and cultural activities for survivors and community members.

"I'm so grateful to be in the position I am now," she said. "I get to focus on Anishinaabemowin even more, which will help both my learning and teaching. I love to share my passion for the language with people and hope to inspire others to start learning more. I know firsthand how learning just one word can change your life and I believe we are doing great things as long as we use even what little of the language we know each day."

Shea holds a bachelor's degree in Native American Studies (NAS) from Northern Michigan University (NMU), where she took classes in Native American history, tribal relations, tribal law and government, research and community engagement, boarding schools, beadwork, and Anishinaabemowin. "I was recognized by the NAS faculty as the NAS Outstanding Senior in 2019 when I graduated from NMU. I am currently enrolled in the Anishinaabemowin Pane Immersion Program at BMCC and am one class away from an associate's degree in Anishinaabe Language Instruction. I'm grateful to have elders and other friends who help me learn our ways every day," she said.

Cultural Language Educator Grey Shea can be contacted by calling (906) 248-8100, or by email at ahshea@baymills.org.

Sadie Diane Jarnigin welcomed



Jesse and Tiffany Jarnigin are blessed to announce the birth of Sadie Diane *dr nig n*. She was born Feb. 8, 02 at 3:16 a.m. weighing eight pounds seven ounces and was 21 inches in length. She is the great granddaughter of Dean Preseau of Cheboygan, Mich., the granddaughter of Deborah Jarnigin of Flint Township and the daughter of Jesse Joseph Jarnigin of Flint Township, all of whom are tribal members.

Kewadin Casino named 2023 Business of the Year



The Sault Area Chamber of Commerce, represented by Executive Director Tony Haller, left, presented Kewadin Casino the 2023 Business of the Year Award at the 2024 Annual Chamber Banquet. Kewadin Casinos Chief Executive Officer Allen Kerridge, center, and Sault Tribe Board of Director Isaac McKechnie, right, accepted the award during the ceremony. Haller noted Kewadin Casino was founded in 1985 with 79 employees and has continued to grow with expansion in 1987 and again in 1994 adding three more locations in the Upper Peninsula. Kewadin Casinos currently employs more than 400 team members. "They are always willing to help out and assist in community projects and organizations whether it is with money or resources," said Haller. "Over the last five years they have supported the community with over \$250,000 on donations and sponsorships." Kewadin Casino is currently undergoing a multi-million dollar renovation project on the hotel in Sault Ste. Marie. The renovation includes re-doing all of the rooms along with a brand new exterior that will completely transform the look of the building.

Planting for pollinators

BY HADLEY REED, SAULT TRIBE ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT

As we approach spring, many of you may be thinking of tidying up your garden and planting new flowers. This may be a yearly event at your home or something new to kick-off 2024.

Either way, the best plants to include in your garden are always native species. Native species are

not only low maintenance and help conserve water, they prevent erosion and provide vital habitat for native wildlife and pollinators.

For more information on what to plant or where to purchase native species, please see our infographic at right, or contact the environmental department at (906) 632 5575.

Early Summer Blooming Flowers

- Eastern Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)
- Wild Indigo (*Baptisia tinctoria*)
- Beard-tongue (*Penstemon* spp.)
- Wild Geranium (*Geranium maculatum*)
- Spiderwort (*Tradescantia* spp.)

Mid-Summer Blooming Flowers

- Blazing Star (*Liatris* spp.)
- Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*)
- Black Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)
- Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)
- Wild Lupine (*Lupinus perennis*)

Late Summer Blooming Flowers

- Cardinal Flower (*Labelia cardinalis*)
- Canada Goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*)
- Smooth Aster (*Symphyotrichum laeve*)
- Evening Primrose (*Oenothera biennis*)
- Turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*)

Where can you get native flowers and seeds?

- Three Shores CISMA Plant Sale**
www.cimcd.org/plantsale
Sault Ste. Marie, MI
- Northern Natives Nursery**
(317) 308-1027
Newberry, MI
- Prairie Moon Nursery**
www.prairiemoon.com
Online only

WITH GENERATIONS

CORRECT VS ILLEGAL WAY TO HARVEST WHITE CEDAR BARK

Protecting Giizhik (white cedar) through sustainable harvesting

CORRECT HARVESTING

When harvesting bark, collect strips no wider than a hand (6-6") to ensure the tree's recovery and long life.

Bark should only be taken from trees 12" or larger in diameter

Trees should only be harvested from once in their lifetime.

ILLEGAL HARVESTING

Bark was stripped around the trees' circumference, which kills them.

Please report anyone doing this to Sault Tribe law enforcement!

Sault Tribe Internship Program

June 3 - August 9, 2024
40 hours per week \$15.50 per hour

College Sophomore through Graduate Students
Must be a Sault Tribe Member

Possible Placements Include:

- Administration
- Education
- Enterprises
- Fiscal Services
- Fisheries & Wildlife
- Health
- Judicial/Legal Services
- Kewadin Casinos
- Language & Culture
- Law Enforcement
- Recreation
- Social Services

More Placements Available

- *On-site placements only

For more information or to request an application email: internships@saulttribe.net

Deadline to Apply: March 29, 2024



SAULT TRIBE thrive

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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

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

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

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

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

Sault Tribe Thrive is an MBDA AIANNH Project estab-

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

To view the online business

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

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

Let's Connect!

Brimley 49715
Innes Welding & Repair
David Innes
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Manufacturing

Dafter 49724
NMK Consulting
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Consulting

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InformationTechnology

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Other

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Red Sky Woman Designs
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Arts/Culture

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Hospitality

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Transportation

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Food & Beverage

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Transportation

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Utilities

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See "Directory," page 18

From "Directory," page 17

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Thermal Kernels
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Gitche Gume Handcrafted
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Jose's Cantina
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Food & Beverage

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Manleys Famous Smoked Fish
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Environmental

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See "Directory," page 19

From "Directory," page 18

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Carole Prisk

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Hospitality

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Construction

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Personal Care Services

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Manufacturing

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Food & Beverage

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The Buckley General Store
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Carrow Super Market
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Snowbelt Brewing Company
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Financial Services

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Ludington Outdoor Services
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irwinmitch@gmail.com
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Julie Roberts
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julie@greatlakesflooring.net
Construction

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Coonen Law
Rose Coonen
Grand Rapids, MI 49525
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rcoonen@coonen-law.com
coonen-law.com
Business Services

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Moore Trosper Construction
Ted Moore
Holt, MI 48842

(517) 694-6310
tmoore@mooretrosper.com
mooretrosper.com
Construction

Ogitchidaa
Ann Dailey
Holt, MI 48842
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ann@companyk.us
Security

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

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MI Playground
Nick Behling
Jenisen, MI 49428
(616) 201-8731
nick@enjoymiplayground.com
enjoymiplayground.com
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American Dream Builders
Gary Valier
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
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garyadbslm@hotmail.com
Construction

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

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(866) 977-3835
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walshservicesolutions.com
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Lansing, MI 48911
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the517coffeeco@gmail.com
517coffeecompany.com
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Great Lakes Drone Service
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Lansing, MI 48821
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Greene Environmental Services
Mike Greene
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Environmental

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Say It With Swag
Cassandra Pasque
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Retail

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Masta Performance
Daniel Masta
Milford, MI 48380
(248) 685-8710
mastaperformance@gmail.com
See "Directory," page 20

Sault Tribe Thrive — beyond Michigan's border

From "Directory," page 19
mastaperformance.com
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Dream Catchers Consulting
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pemblew@gmail.com
dreamcatchers.tech
Consulting

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Janitorial Services

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nacturtleisland.org
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Synchronized Networking
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syncns.com
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(303) 353-0440 ext. 301
info@tp-solutions.com

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(337) 212-0994
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InformationTechnology

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mullenbrockassociates.com
Financial Services

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James Bearden
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Recreation

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persevere12@yahoo.com
Transportation

Project Pomona
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Lori Parkinson
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derushaconstruction@yahoo.com
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Construction

JETA Corporation
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jetacorp.com
Shipping/Distribution

Ontario Canada
Credence HR
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(705) 542-7208
michael@credencehr.ca
credencehr.ca
Business Services

VOTE CHLOE KANNAN FOR UNIT 1



Ozaawaa Wassamo Ekwe Ndinikaaz. My Anishinaabe name is Yellow Lightning Woman and I am in the Eagle clan.

My story has been about bringing communities together. From working as a middle school teacher in the Mississippi Delta and Mumbai, India, to organizing for health care and workers' rights as a doctoral student, to creating a college access program for first-generation South Philadelphia students applying to college, to leading a statewide team of superintendents, researchers, and teachers aimed at combatting the mental health crisis in schools, I have done nothing alone.

In 2018, I sat down with my grandma a few months before she passed away and learned more about my family's story. I promised her that I would find a way to get back to Bahweting.

In 2021, I turned down elite job opportunities in the Northeast to drive to Sault Ste. Marie where I knew no one. I started attending Board meetings, I went to my first traditional medicine ceremony, and I quickly got lost in JKL, where I had been hired, while searching for the bathroom. I soon learned how welcoming and kind our community is. Unfortunately, I also learned that our tribal politics are often petty, partisan, and out of touch.

Since moving to Bahweting, I have served as an educator at JKL and Lake Superior State University, fought for sick leave for teachers during the pandemic, and created the Indigenous Education Youth Collective to work with colleges and community leaders to help Native students find their rightful cultural roles and educational pathways. I didn't do any of this alone, either. I am running because I believe in our community and that tribal politics can be better.

CHLOE'S CAMPAIGN PLATFORM:

1. Pass election reform to ensure fair and transparent elections.
2. Enact constitutional and legislative reforms to ensure separation of powers and an independent judiciary.
3. Empower tribal employees, provide them with due process, and protect them from micromanagement and political interference.
4. Invest in Traditional Medicine, language revitalization, and cultural programming.
5. Engage and empower youth and At-Large members.
6. Hold bi-weekly in-person and virtual Unit One Community Meetings to ensure community-engagement and governmental transparency.
7. Expand tribal businesses across a diverse set of industries.
8. Uphold the Seven Grandfather Teachings.
9. Implement systems to bring community into the decision-making process.
10. Facilitate network building within and across communities.
11. Protect Aki or Mother Earth.



EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania, Ed.D.
Columbia University, M.A.
University of Michigan, B.A.

Chloe Kannan endorses this ad.

FOLLOW THE CAMPAIGN!

Facebook: Chloe Kannan for Sault Tribe Board of Directors-Unit 1
Instagram: votekannan_saulttribebod
Email: votekannan@gmail.com.

Walking on continued...

From "Walking on," page 11
Home Health and Hospice, 508 Ashmun St., Suite 120, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

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

JESS PHILLIPS

Jess Phillips, 62 of Binghamton, N.Y. began his journey home on Oct. 7, 2023 at Elizabeth Manor in Binghamton, N.Y. after a long, courageous battle with Multiple System Atrophy (MSA) with two of his sisters by his side.



He was born July 8, 1961 in Cheboygan, Mich. to George Phillips and Grace Larson. He was a member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians. After high school, he moved to Florida, ended up in Georgia, met his wife Ellen, and then moved to Binghamton, N.Y. He enjoyed hanging out with his friends every two weeks in July in Cheboygan. Jess loved spending time babysitting his two grandchildren. His grandchildren were his life. Jess will be missed by many.

Jess is survived by his son Jarod (Estelle) of Hyde, N.Y.; his daughters, Lauren Taylor and Natalie Phillips of New York; his grandbabies, Nicholas, Blake, Alexa, Jarod, and Estelle; and great-granddaughter Avery all of New York; his mother, Grace Larson of Cheboygan; brothers, Art Phillips of Indian River, Mich., Jay Phillips of Cheboygan, Gary (Tina) Larson of Ga., Walter Larson Jr. (Kathy) of Michigan, Randy (Anette) of Michigan, Todd (Lori) of Michigan; sisters, Lisa (Mike) Phillips of Ohio, Penny (Kurt) of Montana, Marysue (Michael) Haley of Georgia, Gracie Larson of Michigan, Karen Larson of Michigan and Eileen (Ken) Stoll of Arkansas.

Jess is preceded in death by his wife, Ellen Phillips of Binghamton, N.Y.; his father, George Phillips of Cheboygan, and his brother Steven Phillips of

Indian River; all his grandparents, many aunts and uncles, and cousins have walked on before.

I'm sure he was ready to walk on, he heard the drums of the ones before him; I imagine Dad waiting by his side, just waiting for Jess to be ready.

The memorial will be held on June 15 at the Grant Township Hall in Cheboygan, starting at noon.

Memorials may be made to the Cheboygan Humane Society in Jess's name.

DAVID MICHAEL KASUN

David Michael Kasun, 71 of Manistique, Mich., passed away at home on Feb. 13, 2024. He was born on Feb. 29, 1952, to his parents Francis J. Kasun and the former Colleen Evelyn Shampine.



David attended St. Francis de Sales School and graduated from Manistique High School with the class of 1970, then attended Lake Superior State College.

David was the third generation of Kasun men who retired from Manistique Papers, Inc. He worked there for many years. However, David's favorite job held during his lifetime was working on a commercial fishing boat. He loved fishing professionally and recreationally. David was a proud member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and very grateful for the services the tribe provided him over the years.

Retirement gave David an opportunity to enjoy what he loved most, spending time outdoors kayaking, fishing, hunting, cultivating his raspberry bushes and landscaping his beautiful yard. David was also very artistic, creating many beautiful, intricate drawings. He loved the fresh air, taking daily rides on his bicycle and would easily ride fifteen miles a day.

David is survived by his sister, Carol (Darrell) Dixon; brother, Michael (Jill) Johnson; daughter Crystal Strassner; granddaughter Aiyonna Swisher, special nephew Benjamin Stoll; sister-in-law Maribeth Kasun; several nieces, nephews, and cousins as well as

special friends Rick Fiorini and James Cameron.

David was preceded in death by his brother, F. John Kasun; parents Francis Kasun (father); Colleen Shampine (mother) and nephew, Thomas Kasun. David was a member of St. Francis de Sales Church. He found great peace and comfort while attending Mass with his family and his fellow parishioners.

Memorial donations may be made in David's memory to stjudes.org.

Visitation for David took place on Feb. 23, 2024 at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church with Father Ben Paris officiating funeral services.

A celebration of life for friends and family will be held at the Dixon home in June 2024. Fausett Family Funeral Homes will be assisting the family with the arrangements.

LILLIAN MAE (KERRIDGE) HOERZ

Lillian Mae (Kerridge) Hoerz, 90, of Manistique, Mich., passed away peacefully after a very sudden decline in her health on Sunday, Feb. 18, 2024 at the Evergreen Living Center in St. Ignace, Mich.



Born Aug. 7, 1933 in Emmet County, Mich., daughter of the late Alfred "Spike" and Frances (Hatfield) Kerridge, Lillian was the eldest of three children along with her younger brother Lee Kerridge, and younger sister Gay (Kerridge) Mattson.

Lillian owned and operated a Foster Care Home for more than 20 years in her own home. She was an active member of the Michigan State Board of Adult Foster Care in Lansing, Michigan for ten years.

Lillian was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, serving as vice chairperson for the Newberry Unit II Elder Committee for nearly 20 years. Lillian was also a lifetime member of the Order of Eastern Stars, Chapter 98 of Shepherd, Mich.

Lillian enjoyed the outdoors, fishing and hunting. She was an

avid gardener, loved to make jams and jellies and can her fresh garden produce. Lillian enjoyed travelling, country music and dancing. She also enjoyed evenings out at the Manistique Kewadin Casino where almost all of the employees knew her by name.

In addition to her parents, Lillian is preceded in death by

her husband Walter Hoerz Jr. on Jan. 13, 1998; brother Lee Kerridge and four siblings at infancy; her youngest daughter Beverly Jean (Hoerz) Derusha.

Lillian is survived by her children, Kathy (George) Egert of Newberry Mich., Sherri O'Crotty of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., Linda Missler (Bryan Elenbaas) of
See "Walking on," page 22

FOLLOW THE CAMPAIGN!
Facebook: Chloe Kannan for Sault Tribe Board of Directors-Unit I
Instagram: [votekannan_saulttribebod](https://www.instagram.com/votekannan_saulttribebod)
Email: votekannan@gmail.com

EDUCATION
University of Pennsylvania, Ed.D.
Columbia University, M.A.
University of Michigan, B.A.

Chloe Kannan endorses this ad.

Unit 1 - Sault Tribe Board of Directors

- Real 3 Branch Separation of Powers
- Increased Elder Fund Investment & Checks
- Protection of our Treaty Rights & Sovereignty
- Funeral Home & Cremation Services
- Improved Education & Vocational Job Training
- Board & Chair Salary Voted on by Referendum
- Referendum Votes on Key Tribal Issues
- Tribal Code of Ethics - No Conflicts of Interest
- Tribal Labor Laws to Protect Team Members
- New Employees' Appeals Board (No BOD)
- Sound Economic Diversification Beyond Gaming
- Random Drug Testing for Tribal Board Members
- Employment Policies Apply to the Tribal Board
- Monthly Meetings Lead by Unit 1 Members

Some forget where they come from. As long as we have Members in need, our work is not done. I have introduced resolutions that were repeatedly tabled by the old Board. Since the last election, we had a political coup. The voters now have the chance to correct this with another round of turnover of the old Board. *I humbly ask for your support and vote ~ Betty Freiheit*

Email: sootribe@gmail.com ~ Phone: 906-322-0976 ~ Facebook: [Betty Freiheit](https://www.facebook.com/BettyFreiheit)

Representing you with US Congressman Jack Bergman in Washington, DC. It's my job to work with whoever is in elective office be they republican, democrat or independent

Walking on continued...

From "Walking on," page 21
Cadillac, Mich. and Elizabeth "Betty" (Dave) Hoerz of St. Ignace and Joe (Karen) Hoerz, of Albion, Minn.; several grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren; sister Gay Mattson of Germfask, Mich.; many nieces and nephews. Lillian is also survived by her longtime companion, and best friend Nyal Conklin, of Manistique, his son, Wayne and (Tammy) Conklin, of Grand Rapids and all of their family.

A gathering of family and friends celebrating the life of Lillian was held on Feb. 22, 2024 at the Beaulieu Funeral Home in Newberry. Funeral services followed at the funeral home with Pastor Tim Miller, of the Naubinway Christian Fellowship Church, officiating. Interment will take place in the spring at the Maplewood Cemetery in Rexton.

Lillian will be missed greatly by so many, from her very large family to friends near and far. No matter where she went she was known to someone, from politicians in Lansing to bear hunters northwest of Marquette! What will be remembered by all is how hard she worked, all of her life. She never stopped, something always had to be done. She left us with a great work ethic, she always said, "If you're going to do it - do it right or get out of the way and let me do it!"

You will be missed by all of us mom. We love you.

Condolences may be expressed at <https://www.beaulieufuneralhome.com>.

Beaulieu Funeral Home in Newberry is assisting the family.

DEANE "DEAN" RICHARD GILLESPIE JR.

Deane "Dean" Richard Gillespie Jr., age 66, of Cedarville, Mich., died at his home on Feb. 8, 2024. He was born July 1, 1957, in St. Ignace, Mich., to Deane R. Sr., and Dorothy A. (Perault) Gillespie.



Dean was a great, kind and generous friend. As one of his friends wrote on Facebook, "He was nicer than your grandma and

tougher than your grandpa." Dean loved a good joke and was a hard worker.

He held many jobs in his lifetime, working as a bartender, taxi driver, and horse buggy dispatcher. He was accomplished at all his jobs and also enjoyed playing and watching sports. His favorite teams were the Green Bay Packers, the Detroit Red Wings and the Detroit Tigers. Dean was an avid golf player with one heck of a swing.

Dean is survived by his daughter, Meredith J. Lehmen of Dubuque, Iowa; grandchildren, Vash David Lehmen, and Marceline Lerreyne Lehman; sisters, Florence E. Gillespie-Cardinal of Hessel, Mich., and Laurel L. (Reginald) Gough of St. Ignace; brother, James E. Gillespie of Hessel; brother-in-law, Jack E. Dehring of Mackinac Island, Mich.; as well as many nieces and nephews.

Dean was preceded in death by his parents, Deane and Dorothy; and sister, Dorothy A. Dehring.

Final resting place will be at the Mackinac Island Protestant Cemetery on Mackinac Island. He will be dearly and greatly missed by his family and friends.

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

EUGENE N. BELONGA

Eugene Belonga, 70, passed away Jan. 24, 2024, at McLaren Bay Region, Bay City, Mich. He was born Feb. 4, 1953, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., to the late James F. Belonga and Virginia Bouley.

Eugene worked in the asphalt paving industry most of his life, working for Andy Anderson Paving Company, Pyramid Paving for 28 years and then with Blackjack Paving for seven years. He was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Eugene is survived by two sisters, Sheila "Shelly" (Jim) Wilson and Geraldine (John) Mantila; one brother, Steven Belonga; sis-



ter-in-law Faye Belonga; and sons Nathan and Luke.

Eugene was preceded in death by one brother, Jim, and three sisters, Lila, Olive and Maria.

Per Eugene's request, cremation has taken place and no services will be held. Private inurnment will take place at a later date.

LINDA LEE (MORROW) CARLSON

Linda Lee (Morrow) Carlson of Cheboygan, Mich., passed away on Feb. 17, 2024 at age 80. She was born on May 21, 1943 in Cheboygan to the late Charles and Jean (Anderson) Morrow.



Linda was a proud member of the Sault Ste Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, loved reading, chocolate and animals of all types. She was very devoted to her family and donated to many charities.

She was preceded in death by her sister, Monarae Boda; brother, Ronald (Roxie) Morrow; son, Jeffery L. Carlson; and her loving husband, Samuel A. Carlson.

Surviving family include: Kristy (Gary) Ruprecht, Albert (Kathryn) Carlson, Bradley (Teresa) Carlson. Five grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, sister, Vada (Gary) Wait, sister-in-law, Janice Morrow, and many nieces, nephews and friends.

Memorial service arrangements to be announced at a later date.

CLARENCE "BOUNCER" CADREAU

On Feb. 17, 2024, Clarence "Bouncer" Cadreau went home to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He was born in St. Jacques, Mich., on July 15, 1940 to his parents Wilfred Cadreau and Rose Shawano.



Clarence was an Elder member

of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Clarence had one brother James Cadreau, now deceased, and many half brothers and sisters from Sugar Island and Detroit.

He is survived by his wife Christine Cadreau of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., and two beloved daughters Amber Nelson of Grand Rapids Mich., and Lindsay Cadreau of Yale, Mich. Also by several sons, Cheyenne (Krystal) Cadreau of the Sault, Paul (Lois) Cadreau of Kincheloe, Mich., Jerry (Laura) Cadreau of Linden Mich., and Robert (Renee) Cadreau of Yale. And two step children Rex Marsh of Arizona and Joanie Parks of Virginia.

Clarence has many loved grandchildren including Tucker and Remi Bachorski. Emma, Jenna, Kendra, and Layla Nelson. Gavin Cadreau, Amanda Cadreau, Rob and Michael Cadreau, and Cassey Cadreau. Also, Lisa and Angie Cadreau, and River Benson-Cadreau. Also, many great grandchildren.

Clarence worked at the U.S. Army Corps at the Soo Locks, and he worked as a steeple jack painter on the Mackinac Bridge, and also worked at General Motors in the Detroit area. Clarence was also a Vietnam Era Veteran in the U.S. Navy sailing on the Aircraft Carrier the U.S. Forrestal out of Norfolk, Virginia.

We acknowledge his special Nephew Allen Cadreau from California and Bouncer's lifelong friend and co-worker John "Muggo" Nolan of the Sault.

The wake and funeral were held Feb. 22-24, at the Niigaanagizhik Cultural Center on the Reservation including visitation, Prayers and sharing, and the main funeral followed by a feast.

Burial will take place in May at Riverside Cemetery.

BEVERLY "BEV" JANE MOSCATELLO (DERUSHA)

Beverly "Bev" Jane Moscatello (Derusha), 82, of La Verne, Calif., passed away peacefully with her loving family by her side in the comfort of her home on March 6, 2024. Born on July 16, 1941, in Detroit, Mich.,

Beverly was the cherished matriarch of her family, known for her compassionate heart and gentle humor.



Beverly was a devoted member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and took pride in her heritage. A lover of animals and a master of home-cooked meals, Beverly's kitchen was the heart of her home, where family and friends gathered for her renowned chicken and dumplings, snickerdoodles, and homemade rhubarb jam. Her love for card games, bowling and her active involvement in the Amvets reflected her zest for life and community spirit.

Beverly's memory will be lovingly remembered by her children, Troy Mantooth, Byron Mantooth and Vicky Mantooth; her sister, Barbara Derusha; her grandchildren, Rachel Mantooth, Amber Brady(Todd), Courtney Craft (Ronnie), Dalton Mantooth, Bronson Mantooth; and great-grandchildren, Oliver, Hannah, Katie, Julian, and Opal. Beverly's family circle expanded to include many additional children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren through her marriage to Ory, all of whom she deeply loved as her own.

Preceding Beverly in death were her husband, Oresto Moscatello; her daughter, Alieta Mantooth; her brother, Robert Derusha; and her parents, Jane McDonnell and Donald Derusha.

In accordance with Beverly's wishes, a private family service will be held to honor her life. She will be laid to rest following a cremation, leaving behind a legacy of love and cherished memories.

Beverly's kind spirit and enduring love for her family will forever be etched in the hearts of those who knew her. Her absence will be deeply felt, but the imprint of her life's joyful and loving moments will continue to inspire and comfort all of her family and friends.

"Dimmi un Bacio" - Bev"

Beware of obituary pirates after death of loved one

LANSING, Mich. — During National Consumer Protection Week, Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel is warning Michigan residents of the latest frontier for scammers: death. As a recent article on the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) website cautions, posting online death notices heavy with personal information about the deceased could put that person, as well as their survivors, on the radar of fraudsters and opportunists.

In an obituary scam, the victim is targeted by scammers because they are either deceased or emotionally vulnerable from the grief of losing a loved one. In either case, the individuals are unlikely to be monitoring their accounts for unauthorized activity.

The details about a lost loved

one that family and friends share online can be easily gathered by criminals to purchase even more personal data — like the deceased person's address and social security number — from the dark web. Armed with that information, criminals can open bank accounts, obtain loans, secure health insurance, or file false tax returns in the deceased person's name.

A grieving person can be more susceptible to manipulation from scammers masquerading as representatives of government agencies, collection agencies, or insurance companies. Scammers may also pose as long-lost friends, relatives, or romantic partners who contact the deceased's survivors out of the blue to reminisce. But this is yet another tactic to

acquire personal information to use for nefarious purposes. Some criminals might call the funeral home to stealthily obtain financial information about the deceased person or their family.

Survivors should be on the lookout for red flags like:

Bills or credit card activity for expenses accrued after your loved one's death. Calls from government agency imposters, debt collectors, or insurance brokers about outstanding taxes, unpaid bills, or unfinished business supposedly left by the deceased. Callers who pressure you to pay immediately by wire transfer, gift card, or reloadable cash card.

Family members may be contacted by the deceased person's legitimate creditors, subject to limitations on who

and for what purpose. Loved ones should look to the Federal Trade Commission's article, Debts and Deceased Relatives (<https://consumer.ftc.gov/articles/debts-and-deceased-relatives>), for advice on responding to these queries.

Another twist on the obituary scam has "obituary pirates" scouring newspapers and websites for details about the deaths of strangers, fabricating additional details, and posting the fake obituaries as clickbait on blogs or video sites to generate views and ad revenue. In some cases, the pirates simply record themselves reading a summary of the obituary and then upload it to their chosen social media platform. Each click earns income for the poster. If the online obituary site

has a donation link, those funds may not reach their intended destination but could end up in the hands of a fraudster.

By remaining vigilant and verifying the legitimacy of online obituaries and donation requests, individuals can protect themselves and their families from falling victim to these scams.

Michigan residents whose deceased loved one has been the target of obituary pirates or fraud can contact the Department of Attorney General's Consumer Protection Team:

Consumer Protection Team, P.O. Box 3023, Lansing, MI 48909. Call (517) 335-7599, or toll-free: (877) 765-8388.

Complaint form: <https://secure.ag.state.mi.us/complaints/consumer.aspx>.

Chairman makes his report: Visiting the Hill



AUSTIN LOWES
TRIBAL CHAIRMAN

This project involves renovating the property's exterior, along with each of its 260 hotel rooms. This project is being completed in phases. The first set of hotel rooms have been demolished. Drywall crews have repaired walls, and the rooms have been prepared for electrical and tile work. The windows in these rooms have been replaced, and aluminum siding is being installed on the exterior of the building. After this is complete, the process will begin for the next set of rooms until they are all finished. Our goal is to have the first set of rooms available this summer. I'd like to thank our casino staff for their tireless work on this project. They have gone above and beyond on

many occasions, and the tribe owes them a debt of gratitude. Miigwech!

I'd now like to provide an update on legislative matters. I recently attended the State of the Union as a guest to U.S. Representative Jack Bergman. Congressman Bergman represents Michigan's First District, which covers the entire Upper Peninsula and much of Northern Michigan. My attendance isn't an endorsement of Congressman Bergman, but instead represents the government-to-government relationship that the Sault Tribe has with the federal government. Tribal leaders should have productive relationships with whoever is in office, Republican or Democrat, to best advocate for

Indian Country. The Sault Tribe has seats at the table at the state and national level, and I will continue to occupy them to the best of my abilities.

In addition to attending the State of the Union, I also met with several U.S. Senators to advocate for Indian Country while I was in Washington, D.C. Vice Chairman LaPlaut assisted me with this. We had government meetings with Senators Peters and Stabenow to make Congressional Directed Spending (CDS) requests to fund new housing programs. If approved, this would fund a Sault Tribe apartment complex, along with renovating dozens of homes that the tribe hasn't been able to rent due to disrepair and lack of

proper infrastructure and utilities. If funded, these programs would provide additional housing opportunities for many tribal families.

I will end this unit report by giving a shout out to our team members. We are one of the largest employers in the Upper Peninsula, and I truly believe we have the best employees. It has been such a pleasure getting to know you all the last four years I have been in office. I am deeply appreciative of your work, and I value the dedicated passion that you bring to the workplace. Miigwech for all that you do!

Austin Lowes
Chairman of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians

Reviewing February, March, discussing the future



KIMBERLY HAMPTON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV

Aaniin kina waya (hello everybody). As we just had time change with Daylight Saving Time I would like to encourage everyone to do a Spring detox including moving more, eating healthier foods, drinking more water, and getting enough sleep. We should all be continuously looking for ways to improve ourselves. As quoted by Albert Einstein, "Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results." Let's all have a great month.

Katchup with Kim

During the end of February 2023, I started holding Zoom meetings called "Katchup with Kim" as an avenue for our tribal membership, within Unit 4 as well as any of our Units including at-large members, to converse with myself and hold discussions regarding upcoming resolutions, ideas members have for our Tribe, and current issues. I openly welcome anyone to attend these Zoom meetings as change will take a Tribe. Below is the Zoom meeting schedule with Meeting ID and Password: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 7 p.m. EST.; Meeting ID: (906) 440-8138; Password: KimHampton

Powwow Meetings

Throughout the upcoming year there will be regularly scheduled powwow meetings to keep the committee on task. **SAVE THE DATE for the 2024 Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow scheduled for June 8, 2024.** There will be a meeting on Monday, April 15, 2024 at 5 p.m. EST.

I also encourage everyone to "like" the Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow Facebook page to keep updated on meetings, etc.

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

Maamawi (Together) Craft Night

The next Maamawi Craft Night is scheduled for Thursday, April 18, 2024, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. EST at the Manistique Tribal Health Center, 5698W US Highway 2, Manistique, Mich. There are no skills required to join. Bring a project to work on, work on a group project, or just come to socialize. There will be miscellaneous crafting supplies to get us started. Everyone is encouraged to bring their own snacks or drinks. Everyone is welcome to participate, open to the public.

Unit 4 Elder Meetings

I encourage our tribal elders to attend elder meetings to become involved as well as stay updated on what our elder committees are working on. The next meeting in Manistique will be held April 10, 2024, at 12 p.m. EST at the Manistique Tribal Center.

The next meeting in Escanaba will be held April 10, 2024, at 5 p.m. EST at the Delta County Chamber Building.

February Activities

Collaboration with the Schoolcraft County Historical Society: The Tribe's Repatriation Department is working with the Schoolcraft County Historical Society to obtain Native artifacts that were discovered during the 1920s excavation and building of the Indian Lake Golf Course. This is a process and details will be provided once the artifacts have been properly attained by Sault Tribe, which is expected to be March 15, 2024.

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

Manistique Fitness Center and Escanaba Community Center: The Manistique Fitness Center project has begun and is making great progress. The Escanaba Community Center project has made a lot of progress. Throughout the month of February there were regular progress meetings between all parties involved in both projects. I look forward to seeing the completion of both of these projects

in the next month.

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

Community Events

February and March:

Feb 13: Kewading Gaming Authority meeting; Board workshop; Board Meeting

Feb. 15: Progress meeting for Manistique Fitness Center and Escanaba Community Center; Maamawi Craft night was held with an instructor teaching how

to make dreamcatchers

Feb. 18: Attended Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow meeting

Feb. 20: Attended JKL Fiduciary Meeting; Board Workshop and Board meeting

Feb. 21: Attended Key Employee interviews; participated in a monthly Tribal/State of MI team call

Feb. 22: Attended orientation for the National Institutes of Health Tribal Advisory Council where I was appointed as an alternative; held Katchup with Kim

Feb. 27: Attended JKL Fiduciary Meeting, Board Workshop and Special meeting

Feb. 28: Attended meeting for the National Institutes of Health Tribal Advisory Council

March 7: Attended Manistique Dental and Pharmacy Expansion meeting

March 11: Attended Upper Peninsula Healthcare Solutions Perinatal Mental Health &

Wellness Steering Committee meeting

Looking Forward:

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

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

Kimberly Hampton
Unit 4 Representative

TRIBAL MEMBER REGISTRATION IN THE TAX AGREEMENT AREA

TRIBAL MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

(Including the Issuance of Certificates of Exemptions)

INITIAL REGISTRATION AND OR CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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

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

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

CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTIONS

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

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

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

Reviewing Article 6 of the draft constitution



ISAAC MCKECHNIE
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Dear Citizens,

Over the years we have struggled to achieve constitutional reform, therefore over the next few months my focus will be on reform of our Constitution that was published in the tribal newspaper in 2008. I will be posting sections of this constitution for your input and guidance, please feel free to reach out to me or any other members of the board with your thoughts or concerns.

Draft Constitution (Published 2008 in tribal newspaper)

PREAMBLE

We, the Baaweting Anishinaabek of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa, in order to provide for the perpetuation of our Anishinaabe Bimaadziwin, provide for the welfare and prosperity of our People, protect our property and resources, preserve our inherent sovereignty in accordance with the teachings of our Seven Grandfathers, do ordain and establish this Constitution.

ARTICLE VI - JUDICIAL BRANCH

Section 1. Composition of the Judicial Branch. There shall be one Judicial Branch. The Judicial Branch shall be made up of one Trial Court which shall be called the Court of Gweyakwaadziwin, one Supreme Court which shall be called the Court of Nbwaakawin, a Judicial Commission, and court staff including a Chief Administrator of the Judicial Branch, staff attorneys, a Chief Clerk of each Court, and appropriate subordinate clerks of court. The Judicial Branch shall also include trial level courts of special jurisdiction as established by law.

(a) Composition of the Trial Court. The Trial Court shall be made up of one Chief Judge, one Associate Judge, and any other Associate Judges or Substitute Judges as authorized by law. The Chief Judge shall have oversight authority of all matters related to the operations and administration of all trial level courts including the employment and discharge of Court personnel.

(b) Composition of the Supreme Court. There shall be five Justices on the Supreme Court. There shall be one Chief Justice and four Associate Justices. The Chief Justice shall have oversight authority of all matters related to the operations and administration of the Supreme Court.

(c) Composition of Courts of Special Jurisdiction. Courts of Special Jurisdiction shall be made up of judges or peacemakers, including appropriate staff, as

established by law.

Section 2. Election and Selection of Justices and Judges.

(a) Election of Justices and Judges. All Justices and Judges, except substitute Judges, shall be elected directly by the voters.

(b) Selection of Substitute Judges. Upon recusal of the Chief Judge and all Associate Judges, the Chief Judge shall select a Substitute Judge, subject to any restrictions imposed by rules of the Courts or by law.

Section 3. Terms.

(a) The term of office for each Judge of the Trial Court or any other trial level court shall be four years and each Judge shall remain seated, unless removed, until an oath of office is administered to a successor. The terms of office for each Justice of the Supreme Court shall be six years and each Justice shall remain seated, unless removed, until the oath of office is administered to a successor.

(b) The terms of office for Justices and Judges shall be staggered.

Section 4. Qualifications.

(a) The Chief Judge shall be a Member of the Tribe, an attorney, and reside within a fifty-mile radius of the city limits of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan upon election to office. All Associate Judges shall be Members of the Tribe, at least thirty-five years old or an attorney, and reside in any voting District upon election.

(b) The Chief Justice shall be a Member of the Tribe and an attorney, and at least two other Associate Justices shall be Members of the Tribe. All Justices shall be of voting age and Native American. At least one Associate Justice shall be an attorney.

(c) No person shall be eligible to serve as a Judge or Justice who has ever been convicted of a felony in any jurisdiction unless pardoned by the Pardon Panel of the Tribe, or by the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred as long as such pardon is disclosed and consistent with the constitution and laws of the Tribe.

(d) A Judge or Justice cannot be an elected or appointed official of any other government. Section 5. Jurisdiction of the Courts.

(a) The Trial Court shall have original jurisdiction over all cases and controversies, both criminal and civil, in law or in equity. On February 9, 2008, the Constitution Committee voted to approve this proposed new Constitution without a single "no" vote. The Committee voted to send the proposed new Constitution to the Board of Directors along with a formal request that the Board of Directors officially request the BIA to hold a Secretarial Election so that the voters of the Tribe have the opportunity to make the final decision on whether to approve the proposed new Constitution. The Committee specifically voted to recommend that the Board of Directors make no changes or amendments to the proposed new Constitution. Finally, the Committee voted to request that, if the BIA recommends any changes or amendments to the proposed new Constitution, the Committee be

permitted respond to and make modifications to the proposed new Constitution based on the BIA comments. Committee asks Board/BIA for vote on new Constitution arising under the Constitution, treaties, laws, and customs of the Tribe, including cases in which the Tribe or its officials and employees shall be a party, except for an appeal of a final decision by the Election Commission on any election protest or challenge including challenges to a redistricting and reapportionment plan filed in the Supreme Court. Any such case or controversy arising within the jurisdiction of the Tribe shall be filed and exhausted in the Judicial Branch before it is filed in any other court or in any other jurisdiction. This grant of jurisdiction shall not be construed to be a waiver of the Sovereign Immunity of the Tribe.

(b) The Supreme Court shall have appellate jurisdiction over any case on appeal from the Trial Court or any other trial level court. The Supreme Court shall also have original and exclusive jurisdiction over any final determination of an election dispute by the Election Commission or on any approved plan to redistrict or reapportion, and such jurisdiction shall include the power to make findings of fact and conclusions of law, and to issue all remedies in law and equity. The Supreme Court shall hear and decide all election disputes within thirty days of filing, and if no decision is rendered within thirty days then the decision of the Election Commission shall be final.

Section 6. Powers and Duties of the Courts.

(a) Healing. The primary duty of the Judicial Branch shall be to promote community and individual healing and forgiveness in all matters which come before the Courts in accordance with the laws, customs, and traditions of the Tribe.

(b) Trial Court.

(i) The Trial Court shall have the power to make findings of fact, interpret the Constitution, treaties, and laws of the Tribe, make conclusions of law, and issue all remedies in law and in equity.

(ii) The Trial Court shall have the power to declare the laws of the Tribe void if such laws are not consistent with this Constitution.

(iii) The Trial Court shall have the power to review and determine if actions of the Executive, including any Department, Board, Committee, or Executive Branch

official are consistent with this Constitution, and to order an appropriate remedy for actions which violate this Constitution.

(iv) All proceedings of the Trial Court or any other trial court shall be recorded for purposes of appellate review.

(c) Supreme Court.

(i) The Supreme Court shall have the power to interpret the Constitution, treaties, and laws of the Tribe, make conclusions of law and make findings of fact in election disputes, and issue all remedies in law and in equity. Decisions of the Supreme Court shall be final.

(ii) The Supreme Court shall have the power to declare the laws and Executive actions of the Tribe void if such laws are not consistent with this Constitution.

(iii) The Chief Justice shall have oversight authority of all matters related to the operations and administration of the Supreme Court including the employment and discharge of Court personnel and the preparation and presentation of an annual budget request for the Judicial Branch. The Supreme Court shall have the power to adopt Rules and Court Procedures governing the Judicial Branch subject to the Rules of the Judicial Commission and the laws of the Tribe.

(d) Rules of Court. Each Court shall have the power to make its own rules of court, procedure, evidence, and other judicial matters, subject to the power of the Chief Judge to make or modify such rules, and any rule established by any Court, the Chief Judge, or the Judicial Commission shall be subject to the power of the Council to make or modify any rule by law.

(e) Written Decisions. All orders, judgments, opinions, or final decisions of any Court shall be written and published in a timely manner.

(f) Final Disposition. The Courts shall render a final disposition in all cases properly filed.

(g) Right to Appeal. Any party to a civil action, or a defendant in a criminal action, who is dissatisfied with the judgment or verdict of a Trial Court shall have the right to file an appeal to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court shall have the right to accept or deny any appeal from a Trial Court. All appeals that are accepted for review by the Supreme Court shall be heard by the full Supreme Court.

(h) Precedent. The Courts shall develop rules regarding precedent. The Courts shall

require all parties to a case to present arguments regarding the customs and traditions of the Tribe. In the absence of an applicable written law of the Tribe, the Courts shall separately consider and explain in writing the application of the customs and traditions to the disposition of the case.

Section 7. Conflicts of Interest. Judges and Justices shall disclose and recuse when they have a conflict of interest. Any party to a case shall have the right to request a Judge to recuse, and every decision on recusal shall be accompanied by a written explanation for the decision. Section 8. Judicial Commission.

(a) Establishment. There shall be a Judicial Commission in the Judicial Branch.

(b) Composition of the Judicial Commission. The Judicial Commission shall be comprised of five seats to be filled by Members of the Tribe, three seats which shall be selected upon public nomination by the Ogemaa and two seats which shall be selected upon public nomination by the Chief Justice, all nominations to be subject to confirmation by the Members of the Judicial Commission shall serve four-year staggered terms of office.

(c) General Powers of the Judicial Commission. The Judicial Commission shall have the power to adopt Rules of Court governing the Judicial Branch subject to the Laws of the Tribe.

(d) Specific Powers to Regulate the Conduct of Judges, Justices, Attorneys, Advocates, and Officers of the Courts. The Judicial Commission shall have the power to establish Rules of Ethics for the Judicial Branch to hear any complaints regarding Judges, Justices, attorneys, advocates, or any other Officer of the Courts, subject to law. The Judicial Commission shall have the power, after providing due process, to make recommendations to the Supreme Court to conduct a disciplinary or removal hearing.

Section 9. Compensation. Judges and Justices shall be paid a reasonable compensation by law.

Please email me all your thoughts and concerns regarding the above sections of the proposed constitution for your review.

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

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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LaPlaunt reports on Unit 5 and tribal issues



TYLER LAPLAUNT
DIRECTOR, UNIT V

Aanii, Boozhoo!

It looks like spring is here to stay. I hope everyone enjoyed an abnormally light winter. Spring is a time of renewal and a great time to practice our traditional ways in the form of a fast. Our Traditional Medicine program does a phenomenal job helping with guidance. Whether it be your first visit to a Traditional Healer or you're planning your first fast, I encourage you to reach out and utilize our Traditional Medicine Program. It's never too late to start and it's okay to not know what you don't know. We all started without knowledge and the best way to spread knowledge is to learn and share.

The Sault Tribe Traditional Medicine program is hosting a Spring Fasting Camp from April 2 through April 8. I highly recommend and encourage you to go if you're curious. If nothing else, you can sit by the fire and have some good conversations with our Elders and Firekeepers. Traditional Medicine will also be hosting a Women's Fast for Mother Earth on April 2. Both events will be hosted at the Mary Murray Culture Camp on Sugar Island. For more information reach out to Traditional Medicine at (906) 632 036.

I'd like to provide the membership with the same update on open enrollment that the board has been receiving. As of March 8, 02 there have been 3,29 adult applications received and entered into the tracking system.

As of today, in 8 business days, Enrollment has officially enrolled 197 citizens, including children. The new clerks have been trained in and started working, which allows the Enrollment office to operate at a manageable rate.

Again, for anyone who has applied for enrollment, please be patient with our staff. Some applications are quick and easy and some take weeks of research. For more information on open enrollment, visit the FAQ page at <https://saulttribe.com/membership-services/tribal-enrollment/2-membership-services/tribal-enrollment/5897-enrollment-faqs>.

On Feb. 2, 02 we had a full day workshop with Bluestone about the preliminary findings and recommendations for the Health Division. I'm excited to get moving forward with the next step of beginning implementation with Bluestone guiding much needed changes and modernization across the board.

The plan for implementation is to have Bluestone move forward with recommendations without board or staff interference. This allows us to modernize and bring our entire system up to date without any type of personal biases getting involved. I truly hope that we all stick to our word and allow ALL of the recommendations to be implemented.

Beyond improving health services, access to care, quality, and being seen in a timely fashion, Bluestone identified millions of dollars that we are leaving on the table with "the way things have always been done." As I mentioned when first elected, change is difficult but necessary in order for us to be successful as a tribe and provide the absolute best for all of our citizens.

Think about it. We have left millions on the table. That's premium health insurance coverage for all of our Elders. Orthodontics for our youth. Nutritious meals and programs, social programming, you name it. As I've mentioned before, this all takes time, and it won't happen overnight.

It's all about setting a goal, setting our tribe up for success, and moving towards these goals for the best of all of our people.

Moving on to gaming. In last month's report I mentioned that we would have a new online gaming partner. For those of you who may have missed the announcement, we are now officially partnered with Caesars. Caesars will be launching a brand new platform, and they will be doing so while working with us. This is an exciting opportunity for us and one that provides a seamless transition from Wynn.

Why the change? Wynn was looking to get out of online gaming. They closed down most of their operations and stayed in Michigan solely because of their agreement with us. Our options were to 1.) Not work with them and end up in another endless litigation; 2) Do nothing, not transition, but not have an online gaming operation; or 3.) Work with Wynn professionally and find a partnership that all of us can agree on. Note, there were many more options, but these are the Cliff Notes.

Our staff worked tirelessly for the past 6-plus months to find a reliable partnership that would strengthen our online gaming presence. We now have a 10-year partnership agreement with Caesars where a minimum payment will need to be met. They will take over the existing Wynn platform and change the skins while retaining the entire player database. The transition has no break in service for us or for online gaming patrons in the state of Michigan. This is a great deal and I look forward to seeing what the future holds and how we can strengthen our Kewadin footprint with the additional revenue that will continue to be brought in.

News on the EDC side. Isaac and I have proposed moving the 15% share of Indian Energy over to the EDC instead of underneath the board. This makes sense, but still needs to pass with legislation. What this will allow is for direct oversight from our EDC

Director and his staff. The deal with Indian Energy was made over 12 years ago and the tribe still hasn't seen a penny of its investment returned. Dan Doyle and our EDC will be able to commit more time and sit directly on the Indian Energy Board to figure out what is going on once and for all. They promised the Sault Tribe a payment last fall. While I try to see the best in people when they tell us they mean well, my patience is growing thin.

This past week, Chairman Lowes, Director Freiheit and I attended the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes (MAST) Impact week. MAST is the 34 tribes in the Bemidji Area that come together for like issues to advocate on the Hill together. We also have many departments of the federal government come in person to provide updates on legislation or programs that affect us as tribal nations, with an opportunity to provide comment back to them. We then hit the Hill together in many groups and advocate for or against issues that impact all of us.

We had an extremely productive week in Washington, D.C., with many Congressional and Senate meetings under our belts on both sides of the aisle, in addition to those provided by MAST. As tribal leaders, we must be ready and willing to work with all elected leaders to make our voices heard. This allowed us to advocate for congressionally directed spending requests that the Sault Tribe recently submitted, as well as receive several letters of support. Fingers crossed that we get one or more of those funded. MAST Impact week is always an extremely busy week and I'd like to give a shoutout to our Legislative Department that helped set up all of our meetings and make sure we had everything we needed to be prepared. Great job, everyone!

On the Munising side of Unit 5, I am proposing a resolution in the upcoming meeting to dedicate the remainder of our Unit 5 specific ARPA funding to a housing

initiative in Wetmore. In order to do that, I will be rescinding the previous Resolution that dedicated the old health clinic space and Cultural use only. We will continue to keep an eye out for land that is more advantageous to us for Cultural and Traditional use. For right now, there is a severe need for housing. Even if we just begin a project, at least we will be laying the groundwork for future housing in a much-needed area. Perhaps something Chairman Lowes and I can advocate for together in future visits to D.C. and Lansing,

The next Unit 5 Elder Meeting and Meal in Munising will be held on Thursday, April 4 02 at the Munising Tribal Health Center from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. All you need to do to participate is be a Unit 5 Elder aged 60+.

The next Unit 5 Elder Meeting and Meal in Marquette will be held on Thursday, April 4 02 at the Holiday Inn of Marquette from 6-8 p.m. All you need to do to participate is be a Unit 5 or surrounding Unit 4 Elder aged 60+.

The Marquette Culture night is still going strong, and we are seeing new and old faces every week. If you haven't had a chance to come check it out yet, please come on down. We are still hosting Culture Night on the 2d and 4h Thursday of every month from 5:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. at the Lakeview Arena Citizens Forum. Stop in and see what it's all about. It's a great way to make some friends a learn a little from each other.

If you have any questions, comments, or would just like to discuss something with me, please use my contact information below. You can also reach out to Unit 4 5 Liaison Mary Jenerou at MJenerou@saulttribe.net or (906) 40- 7011 or (906) 34- 849.

Chi Miigwetch,
Tyler Migizii Migwan
LaPlaunt

Unit 5 Director/Vice-Chairman
tlaplaunt@saulttribe.net
(906) 4- 824

Always be sure to get both sides of the story



MICHAEL MCKERCHIE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

For some time now, I've been telling the membership to always try and hear both sides of a story before making any determination of how events occurred. That's especially so during campaign time. The reason I have preached this is because many times truth

and the real story aren't very exciting. What I mean by that is: lies are easy to make up, easy to spread, and easy to get reactions from. Many use this to spread misinformation and cause members to get angry, because they know once someone is angry it takes a lot to convince them otherwise.

All I ask is for members to remember this when reading unit reports, online posts or other social media. Reflect on why someone is saying it. What do they have to gain? And if possible, find a source from the "other side" of the story and read that. We need an informed membership to make good decisions. I often hear that the other side of the story isn't out there, but I'm here to tell you it most likely is. You may have to look because the truth isn't flashy, it doesn't get a lot of likes, and is often

overlooked. The other side knows this and will always do well when willing to lie to the membership.

However, I believe the majority of the membership is more engaged than ever before, and will look for both sides of any story and make their own determinations based on facts. Truth be told, the majority of this tribe is not "one side" or the "other side," it is in the middle and just wants to see our tribe succeed.

I have been at odds with previous administration and current administration several times, but I have always respected the position and remain diplomatic and respectful. We can disagree and still find ways to move our tribe forward. Recent workshops have focused on spending our ARPA dollars and assessing our health services. I am not opposed to either but want to move ahead cautiously and remind our mem-

bers of all the great services our health centers provide. There will always be criticism of health services; there is a nationwide shortage of providers and we live in rural areas. Even with those hurdles, our health centers see thousands of patients per year and have made record-breaking revenue even without the current assessment being completed.

Things can always be improved. As the governing body for our tribe, we should make sure no barriers exist that prevent our directors and managers from completing their jobs and working together to get things accomplished. We still need to implement better protections from board micromanaging and allow our internal services to help.

I also want to take this time and thank the membership for attending meetings, in-person and online. I believe your presence

helps and it is much appreciated. Please reach out to me to discuss these or any issues. I can be reached at (906) 440-7768. Chi Miigwetch.

Moving?



When you move, let us know where you are headed! That way you won't miss one issue of your tribal paper. Call (906) 632-6398 or email slucas@saulttribe.net.

Insist on accountability or it will happen again



BETTY FREIHEIT,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Hello Tribal Members,
“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it,” George Santayana said. In 2022, on the Monday before

the Tribal Board Election Day, incumbent board members must have realized the writing on the wall with Hoffman losing his primary, which led to an act of desperation.

Please exercise your civic duty and be informed of how close we came to violating our democratic process for choosing our elected leaders.

This issue is distinctly different than the board not making an appointment in the last special advisory as the candidate's sister was handling and counting her sister's ballots. While our board made the right decision not to appoint someone who apparently cheated, those who engaged in what appears like sedition still need to be held accountable. If we don't confront this, we can

expect it to happen again. Not dealing with this is to give permission for it to happen again. We can't let that happen.

ATTENDING MAST

As I write this report, I reflect on the work Chairman Austin Lowes, Vice Chairman Tyler LaPlaut and I did while traveling to D.C. this week to attend the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribe's Annual Hill Visits. During this trip, we participated in a full schedule of events including a roundtable discussion on issues impacting tribes, educating Congress on the needs and wants of our people including issues of needed housing, murdered and missing Indigenous women, land in trust, and embracing the treaty and trust obligation and appropriations.

We met with members of Congress like U.S. Senators Gary Peters and Debbie Stabenow, and Congressman Jack Bergman. Whether they are Republican or Democrat, we must meet with them all to represent your interests and advocate for our tribe and our people. I am NOT partisan and I focus on issues of tribal sovereignty and full funding. We pre-paid for this with our land in the 1836 treaty.

SHOWING UP

A big part of our duty as board members is participating in formal consultations to hear about issues impacting our tribe. This last year, I attended listening sessions regarding renewable energy and to learn about available resources to help tribes make the clean energy transi-

tion. I also joined the National Native American Language Revitalization consultation.

Tribes were loud and clear about our desire to receive compacted block grant funds based on a formula as we know best how to use these funds suit our tribal needs. I learned from the best and it is a privilege to do this work for all members no matter where you live. Thank you for trusting me to be your advocate and trusting me in amplifying your voice.

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

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

Unit II director: Our housing needs are critical



BRIDGETT SORENSON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III

February was a great month in my unit with cultural workshops by local Elder Ron Paquin. He

did a birch bark wall pocket using porcupine quills that were died to create a flower design. We had 10 participants and everyone had a great time.

Next, we did a community canoe build with Ron and his apprentice, Adam Avery. We had several people in and out over the weekend but a core group of about eight came all 3 days. We had originally scheduled for 4-5 days but this group really worked hard and it really only took 2.5 days. This was Ron's 82nd canoe he has built but has never floated in one, which we plan to do with this canoe.

March 28, Ron will also be doing possibly 2 dream catcher's workshops from 2-4p.m. and 5p.m.-7p.m. with 10 participants in each time slot. Elder Tony

Grondin will be doing a rattle workshop on April 3 and 4 from 2p.m.-6p.m. for eight participants, both held at McCann School. We accept unit 3 members or at large participants, please contact me to sign up. We plan on doing more workshops in other areas soon.

We are also planning on working with our local ambulance manager to offer CPR classes with our coordination of 2% funding on their new building and location.

We are moving forward on our housing in unit 3. An RFP is being sent out for our 40 acres by the airport for infrastructure. We cleared some of the property and did a survey and soil samples in the fall of 2022. The project was stopped because of conflicting views on funding uses. The origi-

nal plan was to build or purchase homes to use for fair market rental which was originally approved with prior legal counsel but current legal counsel says we cannot make money off these funds but the intent was to only purchase or build more housing with the money made from renting.

After we figure out the infrastructure costs and a plan we can move forward. We are also looking into tiny homes for single and couples as well as modular homes to house more families.

Our consulting plan for housing should also be released to us in the next month. Housing is by far a huge issue for all members everywhere. If we had more available, at large members could move home.

I have been invited to attend

Mackinac County's new housing project meetings in hopes to coordinate our projects. They are looking for a developer to take on their project.

I have been seeing lots of misinformation on social media which is so unfortunate, please take the time to research the facts. For instance, the June 20 accusations. All meetings have requirements of 5 days' notice so saying board members don't know of a meeting is ludicrous. I also advocated to publish the entire workshop not bits and pieces.

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

Manistique tribal center expansion in the works



DARCY MORROW,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV

Now that we are in the election cycle per the code our articles can only be 500 words going forward until the elections are done.

I would like to report that the Unit 4 directors have been meeting consistently with our Health Director Dr. Leo, Dental Director Dr. Drockton, West End Health Director Marlene Glaesmann, Pharmacy Director Dr. Goudreau, along with other Health Division and Maintenance staff to expand the Manistique Tribal Center.

When the Manistique Tribal Center was built 20 years ago, Al Goudreau, the architect, made sure it was built for future expansions. When the tribal center opened 20 years ago it housed 15 employees and today it houses 53 employees. The building has been an asset for members near and far to come and

receive services. We have definitely outgrown our current building.

This expansion would almost double the size of our current dental area to include more operatories for more services for our members. We are also looking at expanding our pharmacy because they have outgrown their current area. This would also include a new pharmacy drive through area for members to pick up their prescriptions.

The information was presented to the board at a workshop and the cost estimate has been done for the expansion. The next step is for Health to present it at a meeting for the board to vote on.

Currently on the west end posted there is a Cultural Activities coordinator, Maintenance worker, Fitness Center supervisor and Weight Room monitor. There will also be some positions posted for the Escanaba community center soon. Please check with our HR department at (906) 635-4937 or STEmployment@saulttribe.net if you are interested.

I would like to remind you the Youth Development Fund is still available, and the amount was just raised up to \$250 a year for students to be used for summer camps; soccer, basketball, dance, and more; senior pictures,

swim lessons, class ring, musical instruments, pay-to-play sports, drivers training, etc. Please contact the Education Department for an application at (906) 632-6797 or email youthdevelopmentfund@saulttribe.net.

I continue to encourage members to please start attending board workshops and meetings either in person or via zoom. Link: <https://fs29.formsite.com/SaultT/q1aksnv-jv3/index.html> to attend via Zoom. You need to fill out the form and verify you are a Sault Tribe member, and they will email you the meeting link. You can use the same link each time to attend. I think if

more members were aware of what is really going on you would be more vocal and start asking hard questions.

To sign up to participate, go to saulttribe.com; sign up for the Zoom link and then you will receive the invite to board workshops and meetings.

I continue to work for everyone no matter where you reside.

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

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

Unit II Elder lunches remain unchanged



KIMBERLY LEE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT II

Aanii,
I hope this message finds you

well. The sun has appeared and hopefully brought brightness and warmth to all of you.

I am happy to inform you that we have partnered with Caesars Entertainment Inc. to enhance support for our tribe. At the same time, we are ending our partnership with WynnBet. The funds for this new partnership will be the same as with Wynn. We are hoping with a new opportunity comes a new opportunity. The funds have been transferred to our economic development department. The goal is to create and develop income-generating businesses that benefit the tribe.

We have received an overwhelming response from our enrollment department, and they

are committed to supporting you throughout the enrollment process to ensure a smooth and successful experience.

A town hall meeting has been scheduled at the Hessel Tribal Center, organized by Bluestone Strategy Partners. The conference aims to collect feedback on our healthcare systems and improve the care we provide to members. Your input and ideas are crucial, and we encourage you to attend.

I want to clarify that the rumors regarding reducing our elder luncheons are entirely unfounded. The luncheon services will continue unchanged as we recognize their importance for the nutrition, socialization, and well-being of our members.

Lastly, it's exciting that the Sault Kewadin is undergoing much-needed renovations, with phase 1 of the hotel interior expected to be completed by mid-summer. The exterior siding installation has already started.

Finally, our Unit 2 meetings are ongoing, and we are discussing facilities, housing, and ways to improve as a tribe and a Unit.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to reach out. We are here to help and ensure that you have the best possible experience.

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

Causley-Smith reviews Unit II 2024 business



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

Happy spring. I'm looking forward to new beginnings with projects we have on the table.

Director Lee and I have plans to move on sending out RFPs for the quadplex units in Newberry and the Duplex in Hessel — both areas are viable due to the infrastructure being in place to accommodate the units. We hope to plan the groundbreaking this year along with our new recreation/community center. We appreciate the staff who have helped us with the vetting of these projects. This has been one of the delays along with suspending the dollars for a time period. I'm happy to report we are well on our way to spending out the money allocated to our unit for housings and community projects by 2024 deadline.

I have had a member inform me that there will be a new

fitness center opening in the Newberry area. We plan to work with our community health system to advocate memberships to this facility. Other areas have that opportunity and we will strongly work toward this for the eastern end of our unit. Miigwech for the suggestions on this.

We are consulting with the Bluestone group to do a comprehensive assessment into our health care systems. They have hosted meetings to have discussions and input from tribal members, I have strongly advocated to include our Unit 1 good news. We have a tentative date of March 28 at 5 p.m. to host this. This will be held at the Hessel Tribal Health Center (available equipment) and

all members in our unit and outlying area are invited to attend via Zoom. Information and flyers will also be posted on our website and I will make sure to get it on our social media site. Please plan to attend as this session is for you to gain your input/concerns. I would like to say Chi Miigwech to all our hard working staff. There are dedicated people working hard for us and we also have room for best practices and an overall improved health care system for us and them.

We will be hosting both the Hessel and Newberry annual gatherings as always and I invite you to seek out the committees and meetings being held to organize these events. If you would

like to take part in helping please reach out. You can also contact me and I can make sure you have the information needed and I really look forward to seeing everyone at our gathering this summer.

In closing and once again, I'm sorry these reports are so short but those are the rules set in place at this time. Always contact me if you have specific questions anytime throughout the month and am available to meet or discuss any issues or needs that you have. Please contact me at (906) 322-3818 or lcausley@saulttribe.net. Baamaapii and please take care of each other.

Lana Causley-Smith
Unit 2 board representative

Beginning Unit III projects on hold last from year



**SHAWN BOROWICZ,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

Boozhoo!

I'm hoping spring is here and summer is around the corner so we can begin our Unit 3 projects that were put on hold last year. The first and most important is our proposed housing project in St. Ignace. At this time bids are being accepted for the engineering, site preparation and utilities. If all goes as planned, it would be nice to have several of these homes on site ASAP. I will be working diligently to see that this happens as this area has had a housing shortage for too long. When I built homes, downstate things seemed to progress faster

than they do with government as in tribal policy and procedures, but if we all work together I'm hoping we can move this project along and get tribal members into nice permanent housing.

The Shores Casino will soon have a much-needed new paved parking lot as well as the entrances/exits and the employee lot. Surveying has been completed and the work should start as soon as the weather warms up. Several other upgrades have been brought to the general manager's attention and am waiting on further discussions about these.

Open enrollment is moving

along and last word was several hundred new members are now tribal citizens and I'm sure very proud. The Enrollment Department staff is working full time on this as well as doing blood quantum certifications, newborn registrations and all the other duties they handled before enrollment was opened. A big shout out to the staff for all the extra work they have and will continue to do.

We have a tentative date this summer to come to the New Boston property for a member meeting and our health screening van will be on site as well. This will be a great opportunity for mem-

bers to voice any concerns they may have and to see our mobile health care van. While there the tribal board is going to tour the facility and property and come up with some suggestions for its future use. Hope to see and meet a lot of members that live in that area.

Any questions or concerns, please call and leave a message if I can't answer or send an email or text.

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

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