



# Win Awenen Nisitotung

February 21, 2024  
Bear Moon • Mko Giizis  
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Bahweting Bidajimowin • Official newspaper of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

## Clark appointed to state's NRC, named tribe's Natural Resources director

Robin Michigiizhigookwe Clark made history when she became the first Anishinaabe woman to serve on the Michigan Natural Resources Commission. She was appointed by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer in early December last year to serve a 4-year term beginning Jan. 1, 2024, and brings a wealth of knowledge to the position.



"The commission plays an important role in setting regulations for fishing, hunting, and trapping across the State of Michigan," said Michigiizhigookwe. "I'm honored to accept this appointment, and I look forward to working with my fellow commissioners, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and other citizens of the state to help make decisions that support long-term hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering, and other positive relationships with our shared ecological communities."

Michigiizhigookwe earned a Bachelor of Science in environmental studies and a Master of Science in community, agriculture, recreation, and resource studies, both from Michigan State University.

While earning her doctorate in forest science from Michigan Technological University in 2021, Michigiizhigookwe's research focused on the intersection of Anishinaabe knowledge and forest management, particularly the regeneration and stewardship of Giizhik (northern white-cedar) trees.

At the end of December, she joined the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Department of Natural Resources to serve as

its director where she oversees the tribe's environmental, fisheries, and wildlife management programs. Prior to that position, Michigiizhigookwe served as an ecologist and several other roles over a 10-year career at the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, where she helped develop and oversee natural resource and environmental health services in partnership with tribes across the state. She has also held research and faculty positions at MTU and Lake Superior State University. Michigiizhigookwe is a Sault Tribe member and lives with her husband and children in their community in Sault Ste. Marie.

Sault Tribe Chairman Austin Lowes said Michigiizhigookwe's appointment brings a unique perspective that will benefit the Natural Resources Commission and the state of Michigan overall.

"Michigiizhigookwe's passion for sustainable forest management is evident from the moment you meet her," said Chairman Lowes. "Her combination of academic and real-world natural resources management experience makes her an ideal representative to serve on the Commission. As the only Anishinaabe person and the only woman serving on the commission, she will also provide an important perspective on Native American culture and treaty rights that has not previously been present within that body."

The Michigan Natural Resources Commission is a seven-member board that has exclusive authority to regulate the taking of game and sportfish, and is authorized to designate game species and authorize the establishment of the first open season for animals through the issuance of orders.

More information about the commission can be found at [www.michigan.gov/dnr/about/boards/nrc](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/about/boards/nrc).

## Tribe purchases 130-acre Sugar Island property



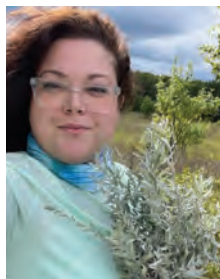
Photo by Brenda Austin

Representatives from the Sault Tribe gathered Jan. 25 at Eastern Upper Peninsula Title Agency to finalize the purchase of 130-acres on Sugar Island. Above, L-R: Sault Tribe Real Estate Manager Helen Wilkins, Sault Tribe Chairman Austin Lowes, Unit I Representatives Isaac McKechnie and Betty Freiheit with EUP Title Agency Assistant Manager and Escrow Officer Elizabeth Johnson. Chairman Lowes said the property contains the Willwalk Cemetery "where so many of our ancestors are buried, and has hosted the Sugar Island Powwow for many years. By purchasing this property, the Sault Tribe has secured its ability to host cultural events at this location for the next Seven Generations." Sault Tribe Unit I Representative Betty Freiheit said, "The purchase of the Sacred Heart Church property is a historic investment for our tribe. With the help of Denny McKelvie's family, we plan on naming the property in Denny's honor. I wish to thank Director Isaac McKechnie and Chairman Austin Lowes, for helping make this investment possible for all our members to enjoy."

## Biron named tribe's Diabetic Program manager

Bernice Biron *Zhaawani-noodin Kwe miinawaa Mino'de' EKwe*

BSN RN is *Mukwa doodem* Bear Clan, and a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.



Biron is a leader for her family, cultural advocate, Indigenous Registered Nurse, auntie, *Bimose Misko Miikanang* Recovery Advocate, community educator, health and wellness advocate and now Sault Tribe Diabetes Program manager who joined the team at the end of December. She grew up in *Bawating*, the Place of the Rapids, and her Biron family roots run deep into the beautiful Sugar Island.

Biron graduated with her Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing from Lake Superior State University last spring and brings with her nearly 17 years of bedside nursing experience, taking care of our community members at War Memorial Hospital.

Biron said, "I have worked in many departments during my

time at War Memorial. I was primarily on Second Med/Surg Acute Care, while floating to Inpatient Behavioral Health, Long Term Care, Obstetrics, Intensive Care and the Emergency Department.

"I started off as a Certified Nurse Aide, worked my way onto obtaining my Licensed Practical Nurse in 2016, then my BSN, Registered Nurse in 2023. As my education and experience progressed, so did my role in each of those departments. I love learning new things to better care for our community members and helping wherever it is needed."

Biron decided to apply for the Diabetes Program manager to work more closely with her Native community. "I love taking care of my community members," she said. "We are all connected."

Biron believes that the more we know about our bodies, and how to better take care of them, through healthy lifestyle choices, the longer we live and happier we will be.

Biron was honored with the LSSU Tempi Dubow Leadership Award at the Spring 2023 BSN pinning ceremony. She was selected for the award by her

peers and the School of Nursing administrative faculty. The Tempi Dubow recipient is selected based on a demonstrated commitment to nursing, academic achievement and potential for leadership. In 2016, she was honored with the Outstanding Practical Nursing Student Award as well, making her a great candidate for her new role.

Right now, she is working to master the administrative aspects of the program and is already making plans for improvements to better serve our community members. "I look forward to witnessing the good things to come of our Indigenous community," Biron said.

Biron said the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) is successful across Indian Country. There has been an increase of available diabetes specific services since 1997, resulting in a 25% decrease in the average LDL cholesterol levels, a 28% decrease in tobacco use, along with a 11% decrease in average blood glucose levels.

Biron said, "According to IHS, diabetes related deaths have decreased by 37% since 1999, with a decrease in diabetes preva-

See "Biron hired," Page 2

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# Manistique community and fitness centers progressing



Manistique's new fitness center under construction is next to the health center.



The community center's traditional healing room is circular.



Escanaba's new community center.

## Biron named tribe's Diabetic Program manager

From "Biron," page 1

lence of 14.6% since 2013, along with decreasing hospitalizations related to uncontrolled diabetes by 84% since the year 2000!"

There are 302 SDPI programs across the United States. Biron will be managing the federal SDPI grant that funds the Diabetes Program and report data to Indian Health Services, the National Indian Health Board and the Board of Directors.

The Diabetes Program helps patients prevent diabetes and manage diabetes with education, lifestyle changes and medication. Diabetes health educators — nurses and dietitians — help patients with type 1 and type 2 diabetes, weight loss, gestational diabetes or pregnancy with pre-existing diabetes (tribal members only), kidney disease related to diabetes, high cholesterol levels, high blood pressure, increased risk for developing diabetes, heart disease, or chronic kidney disease, along with others at risk.

Registered nurses and registered dietitians help patients of all ages to make healthy food choices and educate about medication.

An in-home fitness trainer works with patients on a 12-week home workout to improve patients' health and well-being. Individual counseling sessions are available to help patients conquer the challenges of living with diabetes.

Some of the things Biron would like to work toward are increasing the number of educational community events, community outreach to all service areas and community member feedback on their ideas to better improve the SDPI program, along with networking with tribes across Indian Country.

She would like to see continuation of Early Head Start screenings, Walking Club, cooking classes, family events, Early Head Start Picky Eaters, Diabetic bingo, snowshoeing, Lodge of Hope outreach, along with other tribal program collaborations.

Biron said, "I bring great drive and excitement to be a part of this wonderful team as your new Diabetes Program manager."

For more information about the Sault Tribe's Diabetes and Nutrition Programs, call the tribal health center closest to you. Follow the Sault Tribe Healthy Living page on Facebook.

The new community center's community room holds 200. The center has a circular traditional healers' room with a fireplace and everything needed to conduct ceremonies and healing. There is also a kitchen, conference room, office space, and changing rooms with showers. In the new fitness center, there is a separate exercise room with glass to see into the gym area. There is a smaller room for classes like yoga or chair exercises for elders. There will be 24-hour access with key fobs and onsite lockers and showers.



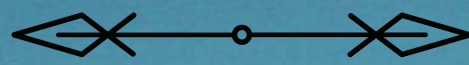
The community center's front hall.

Photos by Darcy Morrow



The tribe's new Diabetes Program manager looks out over the water.

## Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians is HIRING!



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# Committee vacancies — volunteers needed!

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

questions.  
**Anishinaabe Cultural Committee** - Ten vacancies - five males (4-year term), five females (4-year term)  
**Child Welfare Committee** - 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 vacancies (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 for on-the-job training

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

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.

## LIHEAP/LIHWAP notice

**LIHEAP Heating Funds exhausted**

Funding for the ACFS Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP Heating Credit) has been exhausted for the year. The Crisis Energy Component and Elder Heating Programs remain open at this time. Please contact a Direct Assistance Case Manager in your area to discuss your needs and eligibility. Your local county Michigan Department of Health and Human Services can assist with State Emergency Relief (SER) as well.

Sault Tribe's ACFS Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) currently has funding available for the 2023-2024 funding year. LIHWAP provides assistance to restore water service/prevent water disconnections to eligible Sault Tribe housings in the tribe's seven-county service area.

Contact a case manager in your area if you would like assistance completing an application. Applications are available at the following ACFS Offices:  
 2218 Shunk Road, Sault Ste.

Marie, MI 49783, (906) 632-5250  
 60 Kincheloe Drive,  
 Kincheloe, MI 49788, (906) 495-1232  
 1140 N. State Street, St. Ignace, MI 49781, (906) 643-8689  
 5698 W Highway US-2, Manistique, MI 49854, (906) 341-6993  
 622 W. Superior Street, Munising, MI 49862, (906) 387-3906.

## Senior Employment position available

A Senior Employment job is available in Hessel.

If interested, reply to the Elder Employment Program, Attn: Brenda Cadreau, 523 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 or call (906) 635-4767.

Tribe member age 60 or over and reside in the seven county service area. Jobs are 14 hours per week at \$13.072 per hour.

The Hessel Tribal Center is looking for a kitchen aide. The kitchen aide, under the direction of the cook, assists with the preparation of elder congregate

meals for an assigned meal site.

Must undergo and pass a Criminal background investigation and pre-employment drug test. Must be insurable to drive GSA vehicle.

Experience in home meal preparation and Serve Safe Certification preferred.

Applicants must be a Sault

## Sault Tribal Gas & Cigarette Discount Locations

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

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

- MidJim Convenience Store, 2205 Shunk Road, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
- MidJim Convenience Store, 3045 Mackinac Trail, St. Ignace, MI 49781

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

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

- University BP, 301 W. Fair Ave., Marquette, MI 49855
- Kinross BP, 4440 Tone Road, Kincheloe, MI 49788
- Cedar Pantry, 159 W M-134,

Cedarville, MI 49719

- Sunoco, 13975 M-28, Newberry, MI 49868
- Manistique Oil Company, 216 Deer Street, Manistique, MI 49854
- Carnes Eco Fuels, 2300 Ludington Street, Escanaba, MI 49837

## Membership liaisons available

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.

## 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.

## Narcan dispensaries placed

FAN of Chippewa County is pleased to announce the placement of three Narcan dispensaries in our area. One will be located in Kincheloe at the Sault Tribal Housing Authority office; one will be at the Avery Center near the HD entrance; and one at Midjim, across from Kewadin Casino.

We are so thankful to those businesses, organizations, and individuals willing to support our efforts in the community. Special thanks to our Chippewa County Health Department (CTC and Safe Needle Exchange programs); Sault Tribe EDC and Sault Tribal Housing Authority; CLM Community Action; FAN Central (our Families Against Narcotics parent group); and MyMichigan Health for making this latest project a reality in our communities.

Thank you to all the individuals, organizations, and businesses that have helped support our

efforts this year: Pickford Lion's Club, BPO ELKS #552 (and the MANY places and individuals who donated to and purchased items from the silent auction), MyMichigan Health, McKechnie Family (Kasey and Chris McKee, Bob and Peggy McKechnie family, and Dana Hillock), JBS Foundation, Bay Mills Indian Community, Precision Edge, MCM Marine, Central Savings Bank, Sault Police Auxiliary, Soo Co-op Credit Union, Chippewa County Credit Union, SSCU Insurance Agency, The Palace Restaurant and Saloon, Rudyard Lion's Club, Family Life Funeral Homes, Rodenroth Motors, Well Digger's, Lifesaver UP, Algonquin United Methodist Church, Meijer, Hardwood Properties, Heidi Witucki, First Church of Christ and Sault Wesleyan Church, and the France Law Firm.

## Win Awenen Nisitotung

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

February 21, 2024  
 Bear Moon  
 Mko 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.

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**Submission and Subscriptions:**  
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 Email: slucas@saulttribe.net or jdale-burton@saulttribe.net



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# Tribe's Election Commission holds first meeting

The new Election Commission held its first meeting Jan. 24 to elect officers and adopt Election Commission bylaws, hearing procedures, a sanctions schedule and a meeting schedule. The commission meeting was open to Sault Tribe members in person and by Zoom, for viewing purposes only.

The five-member commission elected Boyd Snyder chairman, Ernie Demmons vice chairman and Lou Ann Dougherty secretary. Other members are Jackie Minton and Phillip Martin.

As the Election Commission attorney, Sault Tribe Attorney Ryan Mills used the prior Election Committee's bylaws and hearing procedures as templates for the new commission's, updating them with the new commission and Election Ordinance amendments. Mills said given the time constraints with the election cycle starting Friday, Jan. 26,

it was not advisable to "make sweeping changes at this time." The sanctions schedule was drafted by Mills as a new requirement of the new Chapter 10-Elections Ordinance, setting penalties for violating the Elections Code.

After discussion, the commission decided to make some changes to the existing language presented by Mills. The commissioners approved each document with the provision that they would use them for the 2024 election, then go back and work through each one.

Reviewing their schedules, the commissioners decided to hold regular meetings at 11 a.m. the third Wednesday of the month, at least through the election. The meeting schedule and documents will all be published on the Sault Tribe website at saulttribe.com, along with a link to meeting minutes and other information.



Photo by Jennifer Dale-Burton

Election Commissioners Lou Ann Dougherty, Ernie Demmons, Boyd Snyder, Jackie Minton and Phillip Martin, Sault Tribe and Commission Attorney Ryan Mills, Board Administrator Lona Stewart and Executive Assistant Ashlee Mielke (L-R). The commission held its first meeting and elected officers on Jan. 24.

# Kristi Hoffman nominated for prestigious award

BY SCOTT BRAND

Kristi Hoffman has been nominated for a Costume Designers Guild Award for the film *Killers of the Flower Moon* reaching another high-water mark in her lengthy career which began here in the Eastern Upper Peninsula dressing paper dolls and Barbies in Sault Ste. Marie.

Kristi expressed her gratitude for the acknowledgement by her peers while awaiting the announcement from the upcoming

Feb. 21 Awards Ceremony.

Kristi's career in Hollywood spans over 20 years, cutting her teeth with more than 400 episodes on the soap opera, *Days of Our Lives*, beginning in 2005. Her credits include numerous other productions such as a brief *Tonight Show with Jay Leno* stint, working on the popular *Dancing with the Stars*, *Wes Craven's Scream 4*, and blockbuster films like *The Revenant*, *Captain America: Civil War* and *The*

*Avengers*.

A member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Hoffman said she was inspired to follow her dream by two women, her mother, Lauri, and her grandmother, Helen McCoy. Lauri provided her love of art and was a role model exhibiting hard work and perseverance. Lauri was not encouraged to pursue work as an artist, and when she saw her little girl naturally taking to designing clothing for her dolls, she supported it. Kristi says her grandmother's inspiration came from sharing her love of watching soaps and looking for treasures at garage sales.

"My grandmother raised nine children and her quiet time was watching her soap operas," said Kristi. "I literally grew up watching soap operas." The storylines surrounding the fictional fashion house Forrester Creations was a favorite from *The Bold and the Beautiful*.

"Even as a young girl, I knew that it was somebody's job to dress people for the show," she said. "I told my grandmother I was going to work on that show," she said of *The Bold and the Beautiful*. "And I did."

It was a combination that inspired Kristi to make an unusual declaration for a kid growing up far from the bright lights, hot microphones and rolling cameras.

See "Award," page 5

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# Kristi Hoffman nominated for prestigious award

From "Award," page 4

She also made good on her promise to her grandmother. The road, however, was long and winding for the 1994 Sault High graduate.

"In my family it wasn't an option to opt out of college," she said. "I ended up going to Central Michigan University where I earned my BAA in apparel design."

CMU also provided courses on art and theater as well and even provided her with a chance to study abroad in London, England, where she was able to work the annual U.K. Cosmopolitan Fashion Show, put together other fashion shows and do some sight-seeing throughout England and France.

With her college degree in hand, Kristi said she had the choice of heading to New York or California to pursue her dreams. Growing up where the temperature can reach 40-below, she explained, proved to be the tipping point and she headed west.

The Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising (FIDM) in Los Angeles caught her attention, and after applying, fueled by desire, she was one of eight people world-wide accepted into the program for advanced costume design for Film and Television. The education and guest speakers, coupled with good questions and

*"My mom saw her young daughter at a young age knowing what her passion was... She said you're not going to only go after your dreams, you're going to help others along the way... and not just when you get there, but while you're on your way." Kristi continues to advocate and open up more opportunities, helping others along the way.*

the willingness to learn, got her foot in the door on *Days of Our Lives*.

"We were at Bloomingdale's Studio Services on a field trip, and Richard Bloore, Costume Designer for *Days of our Lives* was shopping. He took the time to speak to our class, and when he was finished, I raised my hand. 'I said, how do I do what you do'," Kristi said. "I remember him telling me in so many words 'you gotta love it,' I asked him for his number. He gave me his business card, and I called him."

When an opening was created on his crew, Bloore gave Kristi her big break and she was able to earn her union card under his tutelage.

"Costume design is visual storytelling. It's creating characters through what the character is wearing; through the art of costume design," explained Kristi.

While Kristi had support from the women who raised her, she didn't have any political affiliations or connections to the entertainment industry. She remembered what she was taught growing up which was

centered around sharing and giving back. "My mom saw her young daughter at a young age knowing what her passion was... She said you're not going to only go after your dreams, you're going to help others along the way... and not just when you get there, but while you're on your way."

Hoffman followed through on what she was taught by example, and advocated for a Sault Tribe member to receive a scholarship opportunity at FIDM while she was a student.

It was important for her to help make a better pathway for other Native people, and other tribal members.

If there's one take away from this story, Kristi expressed that every Native person deserves the opportunity to be in these spaces, and continues to advocate and open up more opportunities helping others along the way.

*Killers of the Flower Moon* is a reported \$200 million plus picture, and Hoffman, a classified Local 892 costume designer was the right-hand person and primary ACD to Jacqueline West.



Kristi Hoffman was nominated recently for a Costume Designers Guild Award for the film *Killers of the Flower Moon*, which is a reported 200 million dollar plus picture. Hoffman, a classified Local 892 costume designer, was the primary ACD to Jacqueline West.

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# VOTE CHLOE KANNAN FOR UNIT I



Ozaawaa Wassamo Ekwe Ndinikaaz. My Anishinaabe name is Yellow Lightning Woman.

My grandparents are Bunny Payment and Madeline Payment (MacDonald). My grandpa grew up on Shunk Road and my grandma was born in St. Ignace. They left the Soo in the 1950s because there was no work and sacrificed everything to give my mom an education. My mom, Shelley, met my father while she was tending bar to pay for school. My father gave up his life in South India and came to this country with nothing in his pockets. Then, I was born in Georgia where the chance of a Native girl reconnecting with her culture and community seemed impossible.

My story has been about bringing communities together. From working as a 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 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 for office because I believe that the power of community is stronger than any individual, and true leaders

Chloe Kannan endorses this ad.



lead best when they believe more in their community than they believe in themselves.

I am running because we deserve tribal leaders who work to unify our people, and who center youth voices. We deserve tribal leaders who work to build the community up, rather than tearing one another down. We deserve tribal leaders who lead with respect, humility, and kindness.

If elected, I will work with the community to fight for transparency, diversified economic programs, strengthened separation of powers, protections for tribal employees, increased funding for language and traditional medicine, an independent judiciary, and the removal of walls between at-large members and in-service-area members.

Vote Chloe Kannan in the Sault Tribe Board of Directors Unit I 2024 Election because we can be better.

And, if you are an at-large member, just turned 18, or have recently moved: call and make sure that you are registered to vote. I voted in my first tribal election in 2020 — it is never too late to start voting and get involved!

**FOLLOW THE CAMPAIGN!**

Facebook: [Chloe Kannan for Sault Tribe Board of Directors-Unit I](#)  
Instagram: [votekannan\\_saulttribebod](#)



### EDUCATION

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

# Anishinaabemowin 2024

*“What really binds a people together is their culture: the ideas, the language and standards they have in common.”*

*How have you been doing with talking about the seven days of the week (from last month's suggestion)? Yay! Stay with it; it's a very useful and cheerful beginning.*

It turns out, ‘Seven — **niizhwaaswi**’ is also the number of Grandfather Teachings: (**Niizhwaaswi Mishoomis Kinoomaadwinan** — seven grandfather teachings). Those are powerful values in our culture that help us to conduct ourselves in an ethical manner and spend our time productively (**gchi-piitendaagoziwag** - they are valuable).

You've probably seen them in these language pages in the past, but they bear repeating. This time, think about how each of them supports and sort of fills out the meanings of the others. **Aaniish edaming?** (What do they mean?) One of the super powers people have is that we **find meaning** in what we sense and in what is happening. We can look up meanings for **Niizhwaaswi Mishoomis Kinoomaadwinan**, but it's most valuable (**e-waanji-piitendaagozid**) for us to decide for ourselves (personalize) what they mean.

## Zaagidwin Giizhigad!

Love day / Valentine's Day!

**Endso giizhigak zaagidwin giizhigad aawan.**

Every day is love day.

**Zaagidi-daa.**

Let's love one another.

We hate to have to say it during language study, but words are kind of cheap when it comes to love. Our actions (**e-zhichigeyin**) speak most powerfully, **THEN** the words are believable! You might want to listen again to John Denver singing “Perhaps Love” or Garth Brooks “Wrapped Up in You.” You probably know several more songs that would fit that bill. Of course the other six *Mishoomis Kinoomaadwinan* are excellent ways to demonstrate love as well.

### Pronunciation??

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

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

*You can also use the guide below!*

### 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.*



*In the Bear Moon, baby bears (**ma-koonhsak**) are born - blind, hairless and hungry - snuggled in the warmth of their mother as she holds and nourishes them in her winter sleep. Black bears in Michigan typically have 2 -3 **makoonsak** every two winters (**bboong**). Our ancestors were so in tune with the environment!*

<b>Nbwaakaawin</b>	Wisdom
<b>Dbaadendizwin</b>	Humility
<b>Zaagidwin</b>	Love
<b>Minaadendimowin</b>	Respect
<b>Gweyakwaadziwin</b>	Honesty
<b>Debwewin</b>	Truth
<b>Aakode'ewin</b>	Bravery



**G'zaagin.** I love you.

**Aaptoojiinshin.** Hug me

**Jiimishin.** Kiss me.

**N'bazigim g'daaw.**

You are my sweetheart.

**G'meznin.** I miss you

**G'bishigenmin.** I like you.

**G'noondawin.** I hear you.

**Mino-bimaadiziwin pii**

**g'wiijiwinaan.** Life is good

when I am with you.

**G'wii besha minjigwenin**

I will hold you close to me.



Why did the banker break up with his girlfriend?  
He was losing interest!

*Love is like a fart.*

*If you force it, you're going to make a mess.*

She: How would you describe me?

He: I'd say: ABCDEFGHIJK

She: What's that mean?

He: Adorable, beautiful, cute, delightful, elegant, fashionable, gorgeous and hot.

She: What about IJK?

He: I'm just kidding.



*What did one lightbulb say to the other?  
“I love you watts and watts.”*



Photos by Nikole Wynn  
Sault Tribe Language and Culture held a black ash basketmaking workshop at the tribe's Culture Center Jan. 20 and 21, led by basketmakers and teachers Sarah and Josh Homminga. There were 12 students of all ages learning to make baskets at Niigaanagizhik. Above, Sarah Homminga helps a fledgling basketmaker. Above right, Jackie Robinson helps Sarah Jacques and Emma Donmyer with their baskets. Below, Kimberly Pelletier works on her basket.



**MKWA GIIZIS**  
(BEAR MOON)  
FEBRUARY 2024

KIDWINAN (WORDS)

**Zaa-gid-iwin Giizh-igad**  
(Love/"Valentine's" day)

**Chi-pii-ten-dagwad zaagidwin**  
(love is sacred)

**G'zaagin** (i love you-singular)  
**G'zaaginim** (i love you all-plural)

**Aaniish ezhi-yaayin?**  
(how are you feeling?)

**Nwiij-kenh** (friend)

**Nbazgim** (my sweetheart)

**Ngchi-nendam** (I am happy)

**Nmaam-kaa-dendam**  
(I am suprised)

**Nmaa-naa-dendam** (I am sad)

**Aab-too-jiin-shin** (hug me)

**Wii-dook-wishin**  
(play with me)

**Sault Tribe Traditional Medicine Program**  
**2024 March Healer's Clinic Hours**  
**Gerard Sagassige**

<p><b>March 11,12,19,25,26</b> Sault Ste. Marie Health Center (906)632-0236 Lori Gambardella</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, March 13th</b> Manistique Health Center (906)341-8469 or (866) 401-0043</p>
<p><b>Wednesday, March 20th</b> Newberry Health Center (906)293-8181</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, March 27th</b> Munising Health Center (906)387-4721 or (800)236-4705</p>

**George Goggeye**  
**March 1,6,7,8,13,14,15,20,21,22,27,28**  
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

**ZIISBAAKDOKE GIIZIS - MAPLE SUGAR MAKING MOON - MARCH 2024**

NIIZHWAASO GIIZHIGAT	NTAM GIIZHIGAT	NIIZHO GIIZHIGAT	NSWO GIIZHIGAT	NIIWO GIIZHIGAT	NAANO GIIZHIGAT	NGODWAASWO GIIZHIGAT
					1  Aambe daminadaa goon-genebik! (Let's go play snow snake!)	2  Giizhookonawen! (Dress warmly!)
3  Minisedaa. (Let's cut firewood.)	4  Mikoomiikaa. (There is lots of ice. It is icy.)	5  Giziibiigininjiin. (Wash your hands.)	6  ninaatig (maple tree)	7  zisbakadaaboo (maple sap)	8  Aagimase. (S/he is walking on snowshoes.)	9  ninaatig ziiwaagmide (maple syrup)
10  Maadse gibeyiing giizhigat. (Daylight savings time begins.)	11  Gjibdan! (Taste it!)	12  Skagamizige. (S/he is boiling down sap.)	13  zisbaakadoonhs (maple candy)	14  shkode (fire)	15  Zhooshkwaade. (S/he is skating.)	16  naabadin (crusted snow)
17  Gchitwaa Pediti Giizhigat (St. Patrick's Day)	18  kikoonhsag (pails)	19  Ntam Mnookomik (First day of spring)	20  Aapiji go gisinaa! (It is very cold!)	21  Zookpo. (It is snowing.)	22  Zhooshkwa. (It is slippery.)	23  goon (snow that has already fallen)
24  Noodin gwojing. (It's windy outside.)	25  Mooshkaneshin Dibiki Giizis (It is a full moon.)	26  Biiskaan dengwe kaajigan. (Put on a mask.)	27  Goonkaa. (There is a lot of snow.)	28  goon nini (snowman)	29  Nigwaankwat. (It is cloudy.)	30  Gii boonpwa. (It stopped snowing.)

# Vote Michael J. Lumsden Sault Tribe Unit 1 Board of Directors *For Competent, Fair, Experienced Leadership*



**Michael J. Lumsden**

I am a tribal elder who has the experience and success in Indian Country to move our tribe forward when you elect me to the Board of Directors. I have worked for tribes in Michigan and California in top-level executive positions working with tribal councils, state and federal officials. I have lived and worked on Indian reservations. I have effectively led management teams and helped acquire millions of dollars for tribes through successful resource development efforts and overseen successful tribal programs and businesses. Also, I have been a lead negotiator for a tribe in achieving a historic agreement. In addition, I have effectively supervised dozens of team members and managed many multi-million-dollar budgets.

As a victim of tribal corruption, I was banned from running for office by the Board of Directors for over 20 years. Having been put on trial by a tribal kangaroo tribunal and persecuted by our tribe, I am uniquely qualified to represent you. I understand that tribal members are powerless until the Board of Directors makes the wise decision to relinquish some power to a competent, independent court. Our tribe must have a court to be a check on the power of the Board of Directors to stop the abuses of power like being banned from running for office for over 20 years because the Board of Directors did not like me for exposing tribal scams and incompetent board members. The Board of Directors does not allow its

decisions to be challenged in court. As a result, we have unconstitutional government, our sacred American rights are violated, bad government persists, political scams are common, a toxic organizational culture is created, money is wasted, and evil thrives. We cannot allow this to continue any longer. People who care about you would never deprive you of your rights and keep you powerless. A vote for Michael J. Lumsden is a vote to defend your constitutional rights and to give you more power. I will fight to fix our tribe's government to empower you.

For over 40 years, the Board of Directors has retained all the power, and our tribal government is out of balance. Tribal members should not be powerless to redress their grievances (file lawsuits) in an independent tribal court. The Board of Directors is intentionally keeping the membership powerless by depriving them of a court that would adjudicate their complaints and defend their rights. We are Americans, our God-given constitutional rights are sacred! As tribal members and Americans we cannot accept that we do not have

rights on our reservation. The rights of every person must be protected to establish a balance of power in our tribal government by returning the power to the people where it belongs, and I am the candidate with the courage, determination and vision to help the Board of Directors establish an independent tribal court so that tribal members are no longer powerless. I pledge to treat every person fairly, even those who persecuted me, because that is leadership. I will fight for your rights and be a voice for the people. Liberty and justice for all, not just the Board of Directors.

When I am elected, I will spend the next four years strengthening our tribe, developing and growing profitable businesses, preventing scams, preventing wasteful spending, hiring competent managers, and acquiring resources to expand tribal services and benefits for the membership. My decisions as your Unit 1 Board Member will be driven by common sense, experience, love, compassion, fairness, and the best interests of our tribe. I know how to make our tribe successful, and I will do it. God bless our great country and our tribe!

## Experience

I have experience in the following tribal positions working for tribal communities that qualify me to serve as your Unit 1 Board Member:

- Interim-Chief Executive Officer
- Chief Operations Officer
- Executive Director
- Tribal Administrator
- Assistant to the Executive Director
- Resource Developer
- Substance Abuse Treatment Program Director
- Economic Development Director
- Economic Development Commission Member
- Board of Directors Member
- Investment Committee Member

## Education

Master of Public Administration, Florida Gulf Coast University  
Bachelor of Science in History, Lake Superior State University

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

**Michael J. Lumsden endorses this advertisement.**



# Sugar bush and snow snake cancellations announced

As is everyone else in the Great Lakes, we are experiencing a very unusual winter. Winter Maker is on vacation!

The Sault Tribe Culture Department has announced that there will not be a Sugar Bush at the Mary Murray Culture Camp

on Sugar Island this year.

Due to the effects of the El Nino weather patterns there hasn't been the usual snow accumulation that the maple trees need to produce a good supply of sap. Tapping would put too much

stress on the trees and deplete the resources they need to survive the warmer months ahead.

Ininitig (the maple tree) stepped up to save Anishinaabe from starvation long ago and now we must do the same in return. The annual snow snake tour-

naments are also cancelled for the same reasons.

The temperatures are too unseasonably warm to freeze a track at this time. We would end up with mud snake games instead. Language and Culture

staff are working to schedule more opportunities for participation in Anishinaabe bmaadziwin (life ways) during this time.

Watch for events scheduled on the internet and bulletin boards near you.



Sault Tribe voters first elected me as a Unit 1 Board Member with 70% of the vote and re-elected me 4 years later with 80% of the vote! Voters then elected me to serve as Chair 4 times. Two years ago, the old Board voted to "censure" me. Weeks later, all 6 incumbents lost their seats. I can attest that I have NOT been further investigated nor charged (civilly or criminally) for anything. Certification to run for office will prove that I am eligible to serve our people.

In 2020, Tribal leaders across the Nation and I worked as a team to secure record setting federal relief & tribal jobs and infrastructure funds. Our share was 1/2 billion! This put \$2K - 3K in every Member's pocket, ensured full tribal/casino worker pandemic pay, funded a homeless shelter, new tribal centers, health clinic improvements, new housing, and casino renovations. I enjoy representing our people and securing millions in federal funds. I'm pretty good at it.

We now have a new Chair and new generation of leaders. With institutional tribal knowledge and a continued focus on positive tribal reforms, I still have a contribution to make. I pledge to be a valuable part of the team and contribute to benefit our people.

I love our Tribe and Our people. I would appreciate your vote & the privilege of once again serving you as a Unit 1 Sault Tribe Board Member.

*Chi McGwitch, Negee, Aaron*

For Strong Local, Regional, Inter-Tribal & National Leadership, please Vote:

# PAYMENT

This Ad Endorsed & Paid for by Aaron A. Payment



*"I've lived my whole life on Shunk Rd in the Soo. I didn't just show up one day. I love advocating for you. I strongly support our new Tribal Board. I'd appreciate your support & vote"*

*~ Chi McGwitch, Aaron*

## OUR TOP PRIORITIES FOR OUR FUTURE:

- \* INCREASED ELDERS CHECKS & ELDER SERVICES
- \* EXPAND SERVICES FOR ALL MEMBERS EVERYWHERE
- \* HEALTH CARE & MAIL ORDER PRESCRIPTIONS
- \* MEMBERSHIP DRIVEN DECISION MAKING
- \* HEALING & RE-BUILDING TRIBAL UNITY
- \* TREATY & TRIBAL MEMBERSHIP RIGHTS
- \* EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS (ALL AGES)
- \* PREPARING OUR FUTURE LEADERS
- \* MANDATORY TRUST GAMING EXPANSION
- \* ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION
- \* ENACT TRIBAL & CASINO LABOR RIGHTS



In the Halls of Congress

*"The political capital we have earned is not transferrable. It is an honor to represent you & testify in Congress (25+ times) to protect our treaty rights, federal funding, land in trust & Our Tribal Sovereignty"*



Testifying in Congress

As your Tribal Chair, I have proudly led in acquiring over \$450 million in additional federal pandemic funds! With my political clout, on your behalf I....

- Chaired or Participated in a dozen meetings with incoming Presidential Administration to set Tribal Platform & Presidential Agenda;
- Secured \$450M Federal Funds to Survive the World Wide Pandemic;
- Worked Directly with VP Harris to secure >\$30M for Tribal Broadband;
- Drafted & introduced Legislation for \$1M in Fisher's Relief Funding;
- Negotiation our 2020 Great Lakes Treaty Consent Decree;
- Casino Compact Negotiations & Mandatory Trust & Casino Expansion;
- 2022 Approval of Congressional IHS Advanced Appropriations!

Growing up on Shunk Rd, I never dreamed I'd have the opportunity to serve you at the highest levels as:

- Tribal Chairperson, Vice-Chair & Unit 1 Board;
- 1st VP for the National Congress of American Indians;
- National Advisory Council on Indian Education,;
- VP of the Mid-west Alliance of Sovereign Tribes;
- President of the United Tribes of MI;
- HHS Secretary & Substance Abuse & Mental Health Tribal Advisories;
- Past Joseph K. Lumsden Tribal School Board President;
- Past Chippewa Ottawa Treaty Resource Authority Chair.



All my jobs have been in service to Our People including:

- Government Relations Director, National Indian Health Board;
- Deputy Executive Director & Judicial Branch Division Director;
- Sault Tribe Federal-State Policy Administrator;
- LSSU College Professor in Native Studies & Political Science;
- MSU Native Student Services Coordinator;
- NMU Native American Student Services Coordinator

High School Drop-out to GED to Doctorate I have testified in Congress 25+ X & Met w/ 3 US Presidents:

- Doctorate in Educational Leadership
- 3 Master's in Public Administration, Ed. Administration & Education Specialist
- Bachelor's Degree in Sociology



*"I have known Aaron since he was a young college student. I have always been impressed with his passion to empower the visions of the Elders & inspire the dreams of the youth. I have witnessed Aaron do this at the highest levels"*



- Billy Mills, 10K Olympic Gold Champion, 2020

*Dr. Aaron Payment is a nationally respected champion for Native Women & Tribal issues. Be it the Indian Child Welfare Act, Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women, or any other issue of important to Tribal Nations, I know I can count on Dr. Payment's Leadership"*



- Fawn Sharp, President of NCAI, 2020

# National Reading Month and good dental care

**DR. JESSICA A. RICKERT, DDS, ANISHINAABE DENTAL OUTREACH**

National Reading Month is celebrated in March to honor Dr. Seuss' birthday. Let's all celebrate and read every day this month! When we love books, good things happen. Reading strengthens our mental muscles, improves comprehension, increases imagination, and boosts memory. Reading makes us smarter! Who doesn't want that?

Read aloud to your child every day even when they are babies. This is so important because infants are developing language

skills the minute they are born. Research shows that babies ages 0-5 years old need to hear at least six-thousand words per day to develop strong language skills. The average person speaks around 16,000 words in a day. Make sure this includes talking, reading and singing to those darling kids.

Take your toddlers to the library on a regular basis and continue to do so even into the teen years. After choosing a few books, read every day. Jazz up reading time by including stuffed animals and pets. Recruit all fam-

ily members to read to each other. Here are some ideas to keep reading interesting: After reading a book with your child, ask questions. Be sure to have a bag ready with several books, to have available when driving or when waiting. Choose a theme, such as "snow." Dress up like a book character. Hold up the book cover and ask questions, such as about the colors and shapes. Make faces to show the emotions of the characters. Place books at the child's level in your home. Stop at a verb and act it out.

As the children learn to read,

encourage their progress and their independent reading. The Education Specialist at your tribe or Anishinaabe organization can help with many more reading activities, especially as the kids grow up.

The reading program 2 X 2 + 20 = 24 is recommending that we brush our teeth twice a day for two minutes and that we read each day for 20 minutes. A chart to record each task is a great way for kids to track their progress. In a month, this would be 90-93 completed tasks.

For my three children, I used

stars, and I promised a small reward for 80 stars. We read from a physical book. Picking up a desired book and physically turning the pages gives a child agency.

Excellent dental health and learning are tied together. A healthy mouth is necessary for proper speech development. Dental disease is the main cause for health-related school absences.

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." - Dr. Seuss

# Spring is a great time to start a walking program

Walking is one of the best exercises we can do for our health – both physical and mental. Walking regularly can improve and reduce pain associated with many chronic conditions like arthritis, Parkinson's disease, obesity and diabetes.

Mayo Clinic reports that physical activity, including walking, for 30 minutes or more on three to five days of the week, can significantly improve symptoms of depression and anxiety. Even smaller amounts of time, such as ten to 15 minutes for physical activity like walking, can be beneficial to health.

When walking you should start out slowly and build up your time, frequency and intensity.

The Arthritis Foundation has a range of resources for walking that will keep you moving and help you to safely engage in physical activity, including basic stretching exercises, strengthening moves and information on the Walk With Ease program.

Walk With Ease recommends including the following four stages each time you walk.

- Warm up by walking slowly for three to five minutes. This warms up your muscles and makes you more flexible before exercising.
- Gently stretch for four to five minutes. This will prevent shin pain and sore muscles as you increase

the length of time you walk for.

- Walk for five to 30 minutes or more at a pace where you can talk but not sing.
  - Cool down for three to five minutes. Allow your heart rate to return to a more resting level, so the blood in your legs does not pool.
  - Gently repeat stretches, holding them for a little longer.
- Other walking tips include:  
 Pick up your pace: Walk as if you have somewhere to go! This should be at a moderate pace.  
 Increase your time and track your progress: If you are a beginner at walking for exercise and want to improve, try increasing your time each week by five minutes.  
 Monitor for intensity: You should be able to talk while walk-

ing. If you have discomfort on your side or you can't catch your breath, slow down.

Check your heart rate: If you feel your heart racing then slow down.

Do something different: Find ways to make your walking more enjoyable and less boring. Finding new trails or creating new walking routes (with a buddy) is fun to do.

Find a buddy to walk with: Walking with a friend can help motivate you to walk. If you do not have good balance, having someone with you who can help support you when needed can be safer.

Stop the excuses: This is the most important thing you can do for a long, healthy and pain-free life.

If you are just starting out and/or would like information and support, consider signing up for a Walk With Ease Self-Directed Enhanced Series through Michigan State University Extension. Participants will receive weekly educational emails while walking on their own.

This article was written by Abigail Cudney, Michigan State University Extension. *It has been updated from an original article written by Gretchen Stelter, Michigan State University Extension.* For more information, visit <https://extension.msu.edu>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <https://extension.msu.edu/experts>, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).

# Bell makes dean's list for fall 2023



Mackenzie Bell of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., has been included on the dean's list for the 2023 fall semester at Northwood University in Midland, Mich., with a grade point average of 3.65. Bell is a freshman pursuing a marketing major and sports management minor.

Bell is also a member of the Northwood University Timber Wolves women's basketball team.

Owen and Amy Bell of Sault Ste. Marie are her parents; and grandparents are Carol Metro and Arlen and Louada Bell.

## Re-Elect McKerchie to Unit I Board of Directors



This ad is endorsed by Michael McKerchie

Miigwech for giving me the opportunity of being your Unit 1 Board Member. It has given me the experience needed to represent you in a good way, with integrity and humility at all levels of government and within our Tribal community. I respectfully ask for your vote and support in the upcoming election.

Please remember to register to vote and/or make sure your address is correct with enrollment.

Facebook: [VoteMcKerchie "Michael McKerchie"](#)  
(906) 748-7859



## My Trusted Community, Friends & Family,

It has been my sincere honor to represent the people and families of Unit 2. I am humbly announcing that I will be seeking your ongoing trust in my representation for our communities. I pledge to you that I will continue to be the strong, solid, no nonsense experienced leader that you have come to count on and trust to represent our unit and our Tribe as a whole. Please use your profound right and register and vote in our upcoming Tribal Elections.

Chi Miigwech.  
 Lana Causley-Smith,  
 (906) 322-3818

## Lana Causley-Smith

Lana Causley-Smith endorses this ad.

*Please Use Your Voice and Vote*

Home • Auto • Life • Boat  
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 Agents

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[www.NuStarInsurance.net](http://www.NuStarInsurance.net)

2081 Ashmun St  
 Sault Ste. Marie, MI

# Differences between being a warm-blooded homeotherm vs a cold-blooded poikilotherm

BY BILL COOK

Are you a homeotherm or a poikilotherm? For most of us, we're the former but with an arguable dose of the latter. Keep your woollies handy!

These terms are biological jargon for warm-blooded and cold-blooded.

Humans are, of course, homeotherms. This means that we're among that pool of organisms whose metabolisms work to maintain body temperature at a constant level, about 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit for our species.

Cold-blooded animals cannot perform this function. They rely on behavior and micro-environments to keep their body temperatures within a zone where the catalysts and hormones function well. A painted turtle sunning atop an emergent riverside log is an example of this sort of behavior. It's also why so many snakes get run over by cars in the summer.

However, it seems to me that we warm-blooded critters use behavior to help keep ourselves 'in the zone,' too. Sitting in the shade sipping an iced tea in the hot of summer might qualify. Or, donning that fluffy down parka on a subzero winter day.

Wildlife have a gazillion

*"Humans are, of course, homeotherms."*

ways to stay alive during extreme weather.

In winter, most mammals have specialized hairs to help trap insulating air. Birds may have more down feathers. Caches of souped-up high energy brown fat, different from 'regular' white fat, helps provide the fuel to keep these metabolic engines humming along, as well as help fuel migrations.

Animals of similar species tend to be larger in size and possess shorter appendages and have stockier bodies at more northern latitudes. This geometrical consolidation of mass exposes less surface area vulnerable to heat loss. Polar bears are big. Arctic hares have much shorter ears. Even populations of the same species can be bigger the farther north they go, such as deer.

Ruffed grouse will bury themselves under the snow, if there is enough, to help insulate themselves against sub-zero temperatures. They can remain there for days, if necessary. Snowshoers and skiers beware! A grouse exploding out of its snow roost can knock you

over with shock.

In summer, shedding excess heat can be difficult for some. Evaporating sweat helps a lot, but most animals cannot do this. Dogs sitting in the shade, panting ferociously, provide a good example. Camels might own the gold medal for advanced methods to maintain a cool attitude in water-starved desert environments.

Speaking about thermoregulatory techniques, hibernation often comes to mind. Many of us tend to use the term hibernation as a synonym for dormancy.

Hibernation, by definition, is an internally regulated reduction in metabolism, maintaining a very low rate of breathing and heart rate. A true hibernator does not easily 'awaken' and, in fact, early arousal can be fatal. Only certain mammals can hibernate.

If you find a thirteen-lined ground squirrel it can be rolled around on the kitchen table for a while before it eventually grinds to wakefulness. Groundhogs and chipmunks are also among the true Lake States hibernators. Some might argue about chipmunks, but the ability to hibernate is on a bit of a sliding scale.

Stress of hibernation and arousal is part of the reason why certain bat species are imperiled, such as the northern long-eared bat. They are roused in the winter, often by white-nose fungus, but haven't enough energy juice to support a second round of hibernation. So, they starve to death.

Incidentally, some animals 'hibernate' in tropical and subtropical climates to avoid the extreme hot and dry season. This is called 'estivation.'

All these terms are variations on the theme of dormancy.

Black bears do not hibernate. Should you find an occupied bear den in the dead of winter, crawling inside to get a closer look might leave you surprised.

Skunks are this way, too. They might provide a different sort of surprise. This style of dormancy is called 'torpor.'

The poikilotherms depend on some rather miraculous biochemistry to survive winters, and extremely hot summers in other parts of the world.

In the Lake States, they must find hidey-holes that don't freeze, or undergo some miraculous chemistry so that they can freeze. Some bury themselves in pond-bottom mud. Their need

for oxygen is much reduced but how they manage their oxygen-carbon dioxide balance is rather amazing. Turtles can use their shells to help maintain tolerable blood chemistry. Deeper, insulating snows improve the survival of these species. Penetrating frost can be deadly.

Wildlife in cold regions of the world, which lack sufficient amounts of food, have three basic survival strategies. They can migrate, they can sleep it off, or they can tough it out. Nature has provided toolboxes loaded with handy adaptations for each of these strategies.

Trees also have specialized adaptations to survive the cold and drought of winter, as well as limb-shattering heavy snow loads.

The structures and chemistry vary between conifers and broad-leafed trees. One of the common strategies is to dehydrate cells. Water freezing between cells is okay, but water freezing inside a cell is death.

No matter who you are in the northern climates, winter extends a survival gauntlet. The miraculous ways that nature has provided for that challenge is stunning.

VOTE



Austin Lowes

Sault Tribe  
Chairman

Endorsed by Austin Lowes

# Sault Tribe Law Enforcement and Conservation

**BY ROBERT MARCHAND, CHIEF OF POLICE**

Sault Tribe Law Enforcement (STLE) issues treaty hunting and fishing licenses to Sault Tribe members to be utilized within the boundaries of the 1836 Treaty Area.

If members have any questions regarding these licenses, the criteria for obtaining them, and/or the regulations governing their use, please contact our office at (906) 635-6065.

### Inland Hunting and Fishing

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

These reports are required regardless of whether you caught any fish or game, or whether you engaged in any activity. Members will not be able to obtain a 2024 license until this report is received.

If you are requesting this license for the first time, you are required to provide a copy of your tribal card along with proof of hunter safety if you want to engage in treaty hunting rights.

2024 Inland licenses will begin to be issued March 1, 2024. PLEASE NOTE THERE IS A PRICE INCREASE. The cost to get your license will now be \$10.

If you plan to engage in any treaty activity with your 2023 license through March 31, please be sure to keep your 2023 license until then. 2023 licenses expire March 31, as noted on your licenses, therefore the 2024 license does not go into effect until April 1, 2024.

Chapter 21 of tribal code regulates Inland licenses. Please remember that if you are using this license for fishing purposes, you are only authorized to fish inland lakes and streams within the boundaries of the 1836 Treaty Area. There are some exceptions on specific bodies of water that you can find more information about in tribal code.

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

All 2023 subsistence and commercial licenses expired Dec. 31, 2023. If you have not yet renewed either license for 2024, please make sure you are not engaging in any of the authorized activities for each license.

Commercial licenses – captains and helpers – require an appointment be made with STLE in order to renew each year. It is important that helpers and captains call to schedule their OWN appointments. STLE has to obtain specific personal information each year that only the member themselves can provide.

Per the new CORA code, captains are now required to report BI-WEEKLY, reports are due the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month and no later than 11:59 p.m. eastern time regardless of where you are commercial fishing.

The report needs to be sub-

mitted online with the new CORA site. The dates in which you are required to report for are available on the new CORA reporting system. STLE staff has been trying to get into contact with captains that are current to get them set up with the new online reporting through CORA, if you have a current captains license and have not heard from staff, please contact them at (906) 635-6065.

The new CORA code is available at [www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com) (Government-Tribal Code)

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

If you are fishing in Little Bay de Noc grid 306 from March 1 to May 14, you need to submit catch reports by 5 p.m. each Wednesday following the week in which harvest took place.

All reports are required whether you catch any fish or get out to fish. Please remember that these licenses are valid only on the Great Lakes within the boundaries of Sault Tribe’s 1836 Treaty Area. Chapter 20 of tribal code and CORA code regulate both subsistence licenses.

As a reminder, you are authorized to recreationally fish in the Great Lakes within the boundaries of our 1836 Treaty Area with just your up-to-date tribal membership card as long as you follow State of Michigan rules for the activity.

It is expected that members will educate themselves on the various rules governing our treaty rights; however, STLE is here to help members wade through the sometimes-complex rules.

If you cannot find the information you are looking for in tribal and/or CORA code, please contact our office and ask to speak with a conservation officer.



### 2024 Sault Tribe Inland Application

Licensing cost is \$10 per member. Allowable payment methods are check or money order, **made payable to Sault Tribe**, or credit/debit card **at the window only. CASH WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** Youth (16 and under) and Elders (60 and over) are not required to pay fees. New members must provide a copy of their **current Enrollment card and proof of hunter safety if born after 1960.** There will be a \$36 NSF charge applied to all returned checks.

**Application must be filled out accurately and completely. Please print legibly. It is your responsibility to know and abide by the rules and regulations pertaining to this license under Ch. 21 & 23.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street  
City State ZIP

Physical Address (if different than above): \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State ZIP

Male  Female Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Tribal File #: \_\_\_\_\_ STS#: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please select one of the following licenses:

- Hunting Harvest Card** (allows Inland fishing, general gathering, small game, waterfowl, migratory birds and general furbearer) Choose the tags you would like below:
  - Deer** \*Season dates - 09/03/2024 to 01/05/2024
  - Spring Turkey** \*Season dates - 04/15/2024 to 06/15/2024
  - Fall Turkey** \*Season dates - 09/15/2024 to 11/14/2024
  - Trapping** (Pine Marten, Bobcat, Fisher, River Otter) \*See Ch. 21 for Season dates\*

- Non Hunting Harvest Card** (allows general gathering and Inland fishing ONLY)

Bear and Elk applications will be available in the Tribal newspaper in April 2024. For all other permits pursuant to Ch. 21 and 23 of the Tribal Code, you must contact the Conservation Department at 906-635-6065 (i.e. State/Federal Firewood Permits, Maple Sap permits, Birch Bark Permit, Conifer Bough Permit etc....)

Mail completed applications to: **Sault Tribe Law Enforcement. P.O. Box 925 Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783**

**For STLE office use only**  
Method of Pymt: \_\_\_\_\_ Date issued: \_\_\_\_\_  
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# Walking on...

## RUTH ANNE ARNDT

Ruth Anne Arndt, 69, of Rock, Mich., passed away Feb. 8, 2024. She was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother who loved her boys and taking them on adventures wherever it may lead. She was a loved Indian education teacher and enjoyed passing down her culture and stories to the next generation. Private services are planned. The Skradski Family Funeral Homes of Delta County assisted the family.

## LOUIS GENE BEHLING

Louis (Lou) Behling died in hospice care in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., on Jan. 26, 2024 at the age of 92, after a lengthy illness.

He was the youngest of four children born Dec. 17, 1931 to Louis A Behling and Norvia Newman: Fae, Ben, Loyal and Louis. His father Louis immigrated from Germany with his parents as a toddler and the family settled in the Boyne City/Charlevoix area. His mother, Norvia, grew up in a Native village on Garden Island in Lake Michigan. She met the German-born lumberman/carpenter while working as a housekeeper in Petoskey. They married and settled in Sault Ste. Marie where the young couple opened Behling Lumber Yard on Easterday Ave.



As a toddler, Louis contracted polio and was hospitalized on an iron lung for a time. Later in life, post-polio syndrome caused debilitating, crippling issues in his right hand and feet.

His mother Norvia died of a heart attack when Louis was 17 years old. His older sister Fae took over as mother to him. They remained extraordinarily close throughout her life.

Louis graduated from Sault High in 1950 and attended Ferris College, for building trades. He returned to the Sault where he worked and eventually took over and managed the business begun by his father.

He married Maxine Bennett in 1953 and they had three children. Many homes in the Sault and surrounding area were built or remodeled by the Behlings and are housing families to this day. In the early 70's Behling Lumber was sold to Lock City Manufacturing and Louis worked there until his retirement. All three of his children (even the girls) grew up to have carpentry skills. His son Steve has been a carpenter his entire life. His oldest daughter Melanie can remember as a very young girl being charged as the "go-for" on job sites. She knew the difference between a slot-head and a Phillips screwdriver before turning four years of age and worked building musical instruments (including Celtic harps) and teaching music. Brenda does house restoration

with a specialty in expert tile setting.

After a divorce from Maxine, Lou married Penny Hamachek in 1977 and became stepfather to her daughter Lisa Dunn whom he legally adopted. Lisa is an avid gardener and works at a local greenhouse and nursery. Lou and Penny were married for over 40 years before they divorced several years ago.

Lou was a man of many interests. He loved cars, trucks and tractors, (especially old ones). He liked boating and water skiing; both at Monocle Lake where his sister Fae had a cottage and at Cedarville where his father had a residence on the water for many years. He earned a private pilot's license and had several exploits in his Cessna 150. He loved to play pool and kept a pool or billiards table at hand most of his life. He bowled with a league for many years. He played cribbage often with all the relatives until he was 90 years of age when his hands could no longer manage cards and pegs.

He had a great affinity for running out of gas: cars, trucks, lawn mowers, tractors, boats and heavy equipment. His oversight in this even once caused engine failure in his Cessna. This resulted in him having an emergency landing on US2 and managing to coast into a gas station to get enough fuel to get back to the airport.

The two greatest loves of his life were music and dogs. Even

with his crippled hand he played the organ and piano by ear beautifully. He was especially fond of ballads from the 40's and 50's. He spent hours listening to his CD collection of the great crooners, night club singers, and old church hymns.

He owned dozens of dogs throughout his life. The first dog he remembers was a terrier type named Brownie, who ran about the Hillside Steet neighborhood digging up gardens, and making his way into sheds and garages to shake rats to death. There were many more dogs after Brownie. Each of them well loved. Each one the "best dog ever."

Lou was a Sault Tribe member. The tribe was of great assistance in his later years with providing essentials for his health care and comfort. The family owes them their thanks.

Louis was preceded in death by all his siblings. He is survived by his three children: Melanie Wiltse (John), Steven Behling (Gabriella), Brenda Strack, stepdaughter Lisa Poirier, nine grandchildren and over a dozen great-grandchildren.

Memorial gifts can be sent to the Chippewa County Humane Society, Best of Friends Humane Society, or Hospice House of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

## TIMOTHY JOHN CAIRNS

Timothy John Cairns, 64, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., died under Hospice care at Medi-lodge

of Sault Ste. Marie on Dec. 22, 2023.

He was born July 5, 1959, in Sault Ste. Marie, to John Victor and Wilma Cleo (Leask) Cairns.



Tim grew up on Sugar Island and graduated from Sault Ste. Marie High School. He attended Bay Mills Community College and graduated with an Associate Degree in Business. He was a cook for many years at Mr. Steak, and then manager of the Deli at the Sault Tribe Kewadin Casino. He was a manager of the DreamCatcher's Restaurant for many years. He liked to cook and was always coming up with new recipes to try.

Tim was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Sault bowling league, Sault golf league, and Sault softball league.

Tim was an avid sports fan. He enjoyed playing hockey with his brothers, cousins and friends on their homemade rink growing up on Sugar Island. There were many football games and baseball games played in the front yard. Tim played football for Sault High School during his high school years. Tim liked to play cribbage. He liked to visit with  
*See "Walking on," page 16*

# There are enough things out there going viral.



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# Dignitaries gather at Kewadin Casino

By Scott Brand

Kewadin Casino in Sault Ste. Marie hosted multiple events on the eve of the I-500 Snowmobile Race serving as the focal point for "The Granddaddy of Them All" before the green flag dropped on Feb. 3.

The qualifying teams prospective I-500m Queens and Court along with race officials packed The DreamMaker's Theater in the final hours before the race, but on the upper floor of the facility, a host of dignitaries — Sault Tribal Board members and employees, Sault Ste. Marie City Commissioners and employees, State of Michigan employees and elected representatives — all converged on the Oak and Spruce rooms for a lengthy presentation and subsequent dinner.

Executive Director Linda Hoath of the Sault Area Convention and Visitor's Bureau served as the point-person for the I-500 vision providing a road map for future improvements for the track. While many of the local officials were well aware of the plans, the main audience seemed to be the 16 elected officials who normally work in Lansing — Sen. John DaMoose, Sen. Ed McBroom and State Reps, Matt Maddock, Bradley Slagh, Bryan Posthumus, Jerry Neyer, Amos O'Neal, Timmy Beson, Greg Alexander, Curtis VanderWall, John Roth, Ken Borton, Cam Cavitt, Neil Friske, David Prestin and Greg Markkanen — all who were planning to attend the race.

Following the presentation, Sault Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes welcomed those in attendance to a buffet dinner with Senator John DaMoose of the 37th District also serving as a keynote speaker.



More than a dozen state legislators and senators gather around Travel Michigan's Dave Lorenz to celebrate his upcoming retirement following the gifting of a wool blanket by Sault Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes.



State Rep. Timmy Beson of the 96th District, Sault Area Convention and Visitors Bureau Executive Director Linda Hoath, State Rep. Amos O'Neal of the 94th District, Dave Lorenz of Travel Michigan and Kelly Wolgamott (L-R) preparing to sit down to dinner.



Former Sault Ste. Marie Mayor Anthony Bosbus was joined by Zak McClellan, owner of the Oh Crepe and Coffee Shop and Zak and Mac's Chocolate Haus.



Sault Tribal Board of Directors Isaac McKechnie and Kimberly Hampton, join Sault Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes in presenting Lorenz with a wool blanket recognizing more than two decades of service with Travel Michigan as he prepares for retirement.



Former State Senator Wayne Schmidt shakes hands with Sault Tribe Board of Director Isaac McKechnie.



Long-time I-500 Volunteer Sam Boodoian Jr. of Higgins Lake (Center) visits with Sault Ste. Marie Mayor Don Gerrie and his wife Jaimee Gerrie.



Sault Tribe Natural Resources Director Robin Clark with Lodge of Hope Director Annie Thibert.

Photos by Scott Brand



Sault Ste. Marie City Commissioner Jay Gage, who also works for Sen. Debbie Stabenow's Office, gives a thumbs-up while meeting with Sault Ste. Marie City Manager Brian Chapman at the event.



Rex Wheeler of Owosso Speedway, the title sponsor for the 2024 I-500 Race is joined by long-time I-500 Race Chairman Ric Federau.

# Community celebrates New Year's Eve



Photos by Jennifer Dale-Burton George and Susan Solomon in an intertribal dance at the tribe's New Year's Eve Powwow.



Head Dancers Melissa Causley, Tyrone Shawana.



Sam Gardner and daughter Tara Hetrick of White Feather Gifts.



Holly Solomon and Molly Escherich attending the powwow.



Vicki Buswa and her beautiful grandchild at Vicki's beadwork booth.



There were many jingle dress dancers at the powwow.



Rita Bouley, Colleen Medicine and Cindy Thomas hanging out.



Another intertribal with community members dancing.

# Walking on continued...

From "Walking on," page 13 friends in his later years at the Brewery.

Tim is survived by his sons, Jayson (Kaylynn) Cairns and Derek (Amber) Cairns; grandchildren, Maraya, Cecilya, and Rowyn Cairns; sister, Tina Fox; brothers, Jeff (Kim) Cairns, Dan (Kathy) Cairns and Chris Cairns; girlfriend, Julie McGuire, and many nieces and nephews.

Tim was preceded in death by his parents, John and Wilma Cairns.

A celebration of life was held on Jan. 11, at Family Life Funeral Homes in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. The memorial mass was held Jan. 12 at St. Mary's Catholic Church, also in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., followed by a luncheon at the Sault Tribe Niigaanagizhik Ceremonial Building.

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

## CLYDE LEO BONNO

Clyde Leo Bonno, 89, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., died at the Hospice House of the EUP in Sault Ste. Marie on Jan. 9, 2024. He was born on March 11, 1934, in Sault Ste. Marie to Frederick L. and Josephine (Shampine) Bonno.



Clyde grew up and worked in Sault Ste. Marie before joining the United States Army in his early 20s. After being honorably discharged, he returned home to Shelby Township, Mich., and worked at the Ford Automotive Plant. He met his childhood sweetheart, Arla Janet Berkau, and they married on May 17, 1956, in Warren, Mich., and started their family. He worked as a drywaller in the late 1970s and after many years of hard work he returned to his hometown, Sault Ste. Marie. He retired on Oct. 22, 2022, from Meals on Wheels.

Clyde was a volunteer driver for the Meals on Wheels program and was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Clyde owned racehorses and loved going to the racetrack. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, berry picking, road trips, and feeding the ducks and crows. He also enjoyed playing cards, especially participating in Euchre tournaments.

Clyde is survived by his sons, Steve Bonno of Coldwater, Mich., Dale Bonno of Sault Ste. Marie, and Michael (Terri) Jones of Florida; daughter, Susan (Joe Urbanek) Bonno of Marine City, Mich.; grandchildren, Ryan Trembath, Andrea Balyer, Arlan Boehmer, Tim Jones, Michelle Jones, Cindy Jones and Joe Pine; great grandchildren, Margot, Jack, Jocelyn, Andrew, Jacob, Allison, Carson, Jackson, Alex, Nessie and Archie; many nieces and nephews and special friend, Aimee Penrose.

Clyde was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Arla; daughter, Clydena Trembath; grandson, Drayden Boehmer;

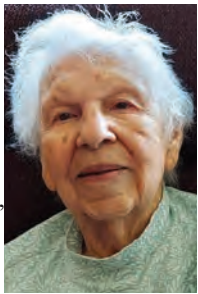
infant siblings, George and Barbara Bonno; and siblings, William Bonno, Marie King, Elvera McLeod, Leona Willis and Adolph Bonno.

A celebration of life is tentatively scheduled for the second or third week of July 2024.

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

## OLIVIA MARIE (MCCOY) DEMERSE

Olivia Marie (McCoy) DeMerse, 100, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., died at the Ball Hospice House in Sault Ste. Marie on Jan. 8, 2024. She was born on July 15, 1923, in Payment, on Sugar Island, Mich., to John and Florance (Rickleby) McCoy.



Marie grew up on Sugar Island and attended Sault High School. She enjoyed helping around the house and moved to Cheboygan, Mich., to help her family raise their children. Marie worked at the Detroit Airplane Factory as a Rosie the Riveter. She met Bernard DeMerse through mutual friends and they married on March 2, 1943, and started their family in 1946. They moved to Sugar Island in 1957 and resided there until 1971 until they moved back to Sault Ste. Marie.

Marie was a member of the Sacred Heart Church on Sugar Island, St. Mary's Catholic Church in Sault Ste. Marie, Rosie the Riveter and the Detroit Airplane Factory.

Marie enjoyed gardening, knitting, baking, cooking, and traveling to California and in between. Marie is survived by her son, Daniel (Janet) DeMerse of Marquette, Mich.; daughters, Juanita M. (James) Hill of Sault Ste. Marie, Nancy (Clyde) Ellison of Centennial, Colo., and Jane Boyer of Sault Ste. Marie; grandchildren, Kimberly (Rex) Nelson, Matthew Hill, Douglas Boyer, Andrew Boyer, and Nathaniel Ellison; great-grandchildren, Sean Hill, Keegan Hill, Kaden Hill, Daniel Boyer, Max Boyer, Troy Boyer, Jax Boyer, Michael Ellison, Vince Ellison, Devon Ellison, and Drew Nelson; great-great-grandchild, Dallas Boyer; and sister, Marjorie Bossineau of Sault Ste. Marie.

Marie was preceded in death by her husband, Bernard; parents, John and Florance; brothers, Earl, Merlin, Hugh, Ernest, and Arthur; sisters, Jennett, June, and Dorothy; son-in-law, Marvin Boyer; daughter-in-law Robin DeMerse.

Memorial contributions can be made out to the Hospice House of the EUP, 308 W. 12th Ave, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

Per Marie's wishes there are no services at this time. A private burial will be held in the spring. Final resting place will be at the Hillcrest Cemetery in Brimley, Mich. Family Life Funeral Home assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be left at [www.galerfuneralhomes.com](http://www.galerfuneralhomes.com).

## SUSAN "SUSIE" LINDA (ERMATINGER) HENDERLITE

Susan "Susie" Linda (Ermatinger) Henderlite, 74, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., was called home on Dec. 26, 2023, at the McLaren Northern Michigan Hospital with her sister and niece by her side. She was showered with prayers, hugs, kisses, happy memories, and messages from loved ones who will forever miss her earthly presence and beautiful soul. Although our hearts are filled with sorrow, we find peace in knowing that she is now renewed and living in serenity with Jesus and her loved ones who have gone before her.



Susie was born on March 7, 1949, in Sault Ste. Marie, to James Henry and Margaret Grace (Gore) Ermatinger. She grew up living with her parents and five siblings in the home her father built in 1957 on the St. Mary's River. She later met Glen Henderlite while he was serving in the Air Force and stationed in Kincheloe, Mich. They were married in Sault Ste. Marie on Nov. 4, 1967, and soon moved to Glen's hometown of Baltimore, Md., where they raised their family. She worked at Martin Marietti for several years before moving back to Sault Ste. Marie. She worked as an administrative secretary for the Sault Tribe, where she made many friends before retiring in 2015.

Susie loved the outdoors, enjoying kayaking, going to the beach and spending time with her sisters at Brimley State Park. She had an adventurous soul, often taking long drives along the water and discovering hidden beaches to check out along the way. She loved her Jeep and loved taking it off-roading with her sister. In fact, Susie and Gayle were quite the adventuresome pair, often taking back-roads and getting lost, but laughing the entire time and always finding their way out. Susie also loved tent camping, sitting around a fire, and going for long swims in Lake Superior; as well as crafting, decorating her home, and shopping at TJ Maxx. She also enjoyed sitting on her back deck with her good friend and neighbor, Deb, soaking up the sun and sipping on a cold drink. Last but not least, one of her favorite pastimes was cuddling on the couch with her beloved cats, Lucy and Twinkie.

Susie's warm demeanor and kind heart made everyone feel at home. She had a soft spot for those in need, and was genuinely happy to be family for those who didn't have one. In fact, if anyone hinted that they were in need of some motherly love, you best believe she would reply with, "Awe, I'll adopt you!"; and those of you who knew 'Aunt Sue' knew darn well that she meant it! She was very compassionate with animals, taking in all kinds of critters and mischievous dogs when her kids were young; and she was, without doubt, a favorite

aunt to her 'fur' nieces and nephews, as they knew that she would never deny them a cozy spot on her lap.

Sunday family dinners will surely never be the same without Susie, as she rarely missed a family get together. Summer Sundays were particularly special, and you best believe that if the sun was shining, Susie would be on the deck, soaking up the sun, chit-chatting, and sipping on a Gin and Tonic. We also can't forget to mention the yearly 'Wine Fest Trip,' where Susie, her sisters, and her nieces would take off to Traverse City, Mich., for the weekend, to attend the Leland Wine Fest and go wine tasting on Old Mission Peninsula. Hopping from winery to winery, with the windows down singing along to Janis Joplin's "Summertime," will be a memory that us girls will never forget.

Susie loved without judgment, had unapologetic fun and brought so much joy to the people in her life. She was truly one of a kind. And although we can't help but feel that she was taken from us too soon, whether it's a day at the beach, a glass of pinot noir, or a random moment in time, the memory of her warm presence and kind soul will remain with us forever.

Susan is survived by her ex-husband, Glen; daughter, Tiffany (Doug) Ramsey; grandchildren, Nathan Henderlite and Ava Ramsey; brothers, Jim (Deb) Ermatinger of Athens, Mich., and John (Kris) Ermatinger of Brimley, Mich.; sisters, Gayle (Tom) Fortin of Sault Ste. Marie, and Karen Ermatinger-Duprey of Stephenson, Mich.; and many beloved nieces and nephews; especially her nieces Lauren, Katy, and Rachael, with whom she was not only an aunt, but a dear friend. It's also important to note that her cats will remain well loved under the care of a family member who will spoil them, just as she did.

Susan was preceded in death by her parents, James and Grace Ermatinger; son, Ray Henderlite; and sister, Lynn Ermatinger-Weaver.

Services will be held in the summer of 2024, and the family will announce more details in early summer.

Final resting place will be at the Mission Hill Cemetery in Bay Mills, Mich., where she will be laid to rest along with her dear son, Ray, and her sweet kitty, Violet.

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

## JUSTIN RAY LINDSAY

Justin Ray Lindsay, age 36, of Kincheloe, Mich., passed away peacefully surrounded by his family, in Ann Arbor, Mich. on Jan. 24, 2024. He was born Sept. 12, 1987, in Fort Myers, Fla., to John Ray and Kelli D. (Hall) Lindsay.



Justin spent his childhood between Lee County, Fla., and Chippewa County, Mich. Affectionately known as 'Chubbee' to his family and friends, he made many wonderful memories at BBQs, birthday parties, and sleepovers with his brother, sister, and cousins.

He met his partner Crystal Green in May 2010 in Florida and they relocated their family to Michigan in May 2013. He began working for the Bay Mills Community College (BMCC) library as a student employee in 2014. After earning his associate degree at BMCC, he went on to pursue further education and worked at Northern Hospitality. In 2019, his commitment to BMCC brought him back, and he took the position of assistant library director. As an employee of BMCC, Justin had unwavering dedication, tireless work ethic, and went to any lengths to help patrons and staff with their needs. He loved the library and loved being able to help everyone. His impact extended beyond the doors of BMCC.

Those who knew Justin knew that the most important thing to him was his family. He was a family man, cherishing every moment with his partner, Crystal, their children, and his brother's family. He loved embarking on Pokémon Go adventures, reading, golfing, playing pool, visiting new places, playing video games, watching movies, and finding new shows to watch. Many who knew Justin met him at his children's extracurricular activities. He loved supporting their interests and always encouraged them to follow their dreams. He treasured his precious time with his loved ones.

Justin is survived by his wife, Crystal; children, Madaia Hefner (Atlas Ball), Xane Shimko, Xander Shimko, Jayda, Jacobbee, Brendalysse, and Jazzlyn Lindsay. He is also survived by his parents, John, and Kelli; sisters, Brandie (Quinton) Hall, Joy (Daniel) Porter, brother, Joseph (Bri) Lindsay of Kincheloe, stepbrother, William Thompson; step-sister, Lisa Thompson; niece, Zoey; nephew Noah and Dominic; aunts, Kim "Sis," and Tammy (Randy); uncles Tracey (Julie), Darryl; stepmother, Darlene Lindsay; grandmother, Sandy Hall; cousins, Sarah (Josh), Joshua, Alesiah, Zachary, Bella, Crystal (Robbie), Logan (Garrett), Jayleen (Gregg), Whitney (Josh), Noah, Randall (Miranda), Gage, Chrissy (Miranda), Bam, and Kim; and coworkers, Megan, Mia, Emma, Alysandra, and Quinton.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Howard Hall (Sandy) and Brenda and James Freed; uncles, Howard "Hud" Hall and Jerry "Jay" Tumblyn; and nephew, Derrick Hall (Diana Aleman).

To support the family with unexpected costs, a GoFundMe has been started. <https://gofund.me/a2f8fc4c>. Donations can also be sent to Crystals Venmo @ Crystal-Green-395.

A visitation and service were held Feb. 10, 2024, at the Family Life Funeral Home in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. Condolences may be left to the family at [www.csmulder.com](http://www.csmulder.com).

See "Walking on," page 27



# 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/](http://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/](http://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](mailto:info@saulttribethrive.com), or phone (906) 635-6050, ext. 26121.

Let's Connect!

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Manufacturing

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Consulting

Floor Masters  
Art Derry  
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Construction

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[demawatingdevelopment.com](http://demawatingdevelopment.com)  
Other

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Red Sky Woman Designs  
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Arts/Culture

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Construction

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Recreation

Creative Memories  
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Arts/Culture

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Arts/Culture

D & S Custom Upholstery

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Retail

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[facebook.com/sugarislandhilltop](http://facebook.com/sugarislandhilltop)  
Food & Beverage

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Janitorial Services

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Insurance

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Food & Beverage

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Construction

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Transportation

National Painting Contractors (MBE)  
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[nationalpaintingcontractors.business.site](http://nationalpaintingcontractors.business.site)  
Construction

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Healthcare

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Utilities

Sabatine Appraisals  
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Real Estate

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Personal Care Services

Saulteur  
Scott Lavictor  
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Consulting

Sault Printing  
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Marketing/Advertising

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Public Sector

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Food & Beverage

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Wholistic Energy Healing  
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solutions  
Healthcare

Willis Pest Control  
Willard Willis  
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willispestcontrol.com  
Environmental

Woody's One Stop  
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Other

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hucks-pub-grill.business.site  
Food & Beverage

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Construction

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Food & Beverage

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Manufacturing

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drestaurant  
Farming/Fishing

**St. Ignace 49781**  
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Healthcare

Belonga's Plumbing and Heating  
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Utilities

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St. Ignace, MI 49781  
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Retail

Horn's Odds & Ends  
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Food & Beverage

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Farming/Fishing

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Farming/Fishing

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Utilities

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

masseyfish.com  
Farming/Fishing

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

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

Ruddles Native Painting  
Carol Ruddle  
Mackinac Island, MI 49781  
(906) 430-1728  
nativepaintingmack@gmail.com  
Arts/Culture

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

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

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

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

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

Feathers Upholstery  
Emily McGeary  
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Apparel

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

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

Rock Road Masonry &  
Construction  
Brandon Deno

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Construction

UpCycled Hippie  
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Retail

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Eagle HVAC Services  
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Construction

Pederson Lawn & Landscape  
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Environmental

**Gwinn 49841**  
Sawyer Village  
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sawyervillage@saulttribe.net  
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Real Estate

Sore Arm's Fishing Charters  
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sorearmscharters.com  
Recreation

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Consulting

Gus' Gourmet Nuts  
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dustindenkins.com  
Food & Beverage

Peterson Building & Contracting  
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Construction

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Business Services

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(231)510-1493  
facebook.com/shampine.hardwoodfloors  
Construction

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Carole Prisk

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facebook.com/Tickled-Pink-Antiques-183263778383419  
Retail

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Wicked Walleye Tackle  
Melinda Kolbus  
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wickedwalleyet@yahoo.com  
wickedwalleyetackle.com  
Retail

**Christmas 49862**  
White Pine Lodge  
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whitepinelodgeonline.com  
Hospitality

**Marquette 49855**  
Blondeau Construction  
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blondeauconstruction.com  
Construction

Blondeau Properties  
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Real Estate

Dance of the Sun Day Spa  
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danceofthesun.com  
Hospitality

McCabes Quality Flooring  
William/Bill McCabe  
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mccabesflooring.com  
Construction

Sacred Tattoo Studio  
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(906) 273-0800  
sacredtattoostudio.com  
Personal Care Services

TriMedia Environmental and  
Engineering Services  
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Environmental

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Iversons Outdoors  
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orders@iversonssnowshoes.com  
iversonssnowshoes.com  
Retail

Matsons Fisheries  
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Farming/Fishing

**Wetmore 49895**  
Midway General Store  
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Retail

**Trout Creek 49967**  
Calderwood Enterprises

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Manufacturing

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Food & Beverage

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

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

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snowbelt.beer  
Food & Beverage

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Bay Area Demolition  
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northernmichigandemolition.com  
Construction

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Financial Services

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calebbowman1982@gmail.com  
Environmental

**Mesick 49668**  
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Retail

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Brewery  
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mackinawtrailwinery.com  
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Muscotts Painting  
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Construction

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allegramarketingprint.com/locations/traverse-city-mi  
Marketing/Advertising

**Tustin 49688**  
Windy Hills Bison Farms  
Carl Brasseur  
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Farming/Fishing

**Cedar Springs 49319**  
Natures Cure  
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Real Estate

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Construction

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**Kalamazoo 49009**  
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Tinger Investments, LLC  
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Recreation

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walshservicesolutions.com  
Environmental

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Great Lakes Drone Service  
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Environmental

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Retail

**Milford 48380**  
Masta Performance  
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*See "Directory," page 20*

# Sprecker hired as Education Director for tribe

By SCOTT BRAND

Saying she has utilized many of the available services both as a student and a parent, Stephanie Sprecker seems uniquely qualified as she steps into her new role as Education Director for the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

"I have about eight years of experience with the Sault Tribe's Executive Office in various roles," said Sprecker, who most recently served as Downtown Development Authority Executive Director for the City of Sault Ste. Marie for the last year-and-a-half before returning in January. "I have always, being an enrolled Sault Tribe member, saw myself coming back to work for my tribe."

Sprecker believes her educational background will serve her well. She attended the Sault Area

School public schools up until the 10th grade when her hockey career took her to a private school in Maine.

"One of my core beliefs is that a student shouldn't have to pay thousands of dollars a year to receive a high-quality education," she said. "That was eye-opening for me."

Sprecker earned her associate's degree in business administration from Bay Mills Community College and her bachelor's degree in business management from Lake Superior State University. In May of 2022, she earned Master of Public Administration degree from Northern Michigan University.

"I have experienced a lot of different forms of education, public, private and tribal-run," she said noting that journey had taken



Stephanie Sprecker

her to the three most popular college campuses for graduates in the Eastern Upper Peninsula. "And my children have received services through our child care center and head start programs. Having your kids go through pro-

grams you are helping to manage is really beneficial."

As a single mom, who worked her way through college, Sprecker has first-hand experience in the process. "I can bring the perspective of being a customer," she observed.

In her new capacity, there are five separate programs that fall under her direction. Youth Education and Activities (YEA), which includes seven different coordinators located across the Sault Tribe's seven-county service area. The Work Innovation and Opportunity Act (WOIA) is designed to enhance employment opportunities for youth, seniors and interns, while Early Childhood Programs, the largest department, serves more than 100 children through Early Head Start, Head Start and child care.

Adult Education is designed to help tribal members earn their GEDs, while the Higher Education Department focuses on undergraduates and graduate students providing direction and financial assistance through scholarships and grants.

"I'm excited to be returning back to the Sault Tribe to work with our members," said Sprecker. "Especially in a role where I'm helping our members excel in building their future through education."

Sprecker is the daughter of Steven and Stephanie Agnes Sprecker of Brimley, Mich. and Debra Schell of Indian River, Mich. She currently resides in the Sault with her two children, LeeAnn Sprecker, 12, and six-year-old son, Bryson Michaels.

# New Foster Family Enrichment Fund now available

In December 2022, the launch of the EUP Foster Family Enrichment Fund aimed to uplift the lives of foster children in Chippewa, Mackinac, and Luce Counties by providing them with new, enjoyable, and educational experiences. This initiative, organized by a committee consisting of foster care licensing workers from MDHHS, Anishnaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS), Bay Mills Indian Community, and the local Regional Resource Team from Great Lakes Recovery Center,

orchestrates various events and activities throughout the year.

In 2023, the fund facilitated a series of engaging outings, including a bowling party at Dondee Lanes, a tubing excursion at the Sault Seal Recreation Area and a refreshing pool party at the Rudyard Area Pool. Foster children were also treated to theatrical productions such as Matilda, Finding Nemo, and Elf the Musical at Soo Theatre, as well as movie showings of Spiderman and The Nightmare Before Christmas at the LSSU Arts Center.

Managed through the Chippewa County Community Fund, donations to this cause can be made via <https://chippewacountycommunityfoundation.org>.

ACFS stresses the ongoing need for foster homes to adequately accommodate the number of children under their care. Following a 2023 ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court upholding the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), it's imperative for tribes to have the resources to place and match tribal children with tribal families, thereby safeguarding their sover-

eignty and preventing legal challenges to ICWA.

ACFS actively monitors tribal cases nationwide and facilitates matches between tribal children and families, even beyond the seven-county service area. Tribal families interested in becoming licensed or already in the process are encouraged to partner with the agency to be listed as a Sault Tribe placement resource, facilitating smoother matches within the tribal community.

For those considering becoming a foster parent, regardless of

location, reaching out to ACFS is encouraged. Even if unable to commit to becoming licensed as a general placement resource, families willing to learn more about specific tribal children in need of a tribal family are encouraged to contact the agency.

If you are interested in becoming a foster parent, and making a difference in the life of a child please contact Anishnaabek Community and Family Services at (906) 632-5250, or at 1 (800) 726-0093, or by email at [acfs-fosterhomes@Saulttribe.net](mailto:acfs-fosterhomes@Saulttribe.net).

# Sault Tribe Thrive - beyond Michigan's border

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[mstaperformance.com](http://mstaperformance.com)  
Manufacturing

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Fast & Secure Towing & Recovery  
Ronald McClusky Jr.  
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(248) 993-3632  
[ronaldalcar@gmail.com](mailto:ronaldalcar@gmail.com)  
Transportation

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Premier Learning  
Colleen Grace Ford  
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Education

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Dream Catchers Consulting  
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[dreamcatchers.tech](http://dreamcatchers.tech)  
Consulting

**OUT OF STATE**  
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Business Services

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Janitorial Services

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Healthcare

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Arts/Culture

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Financial Services

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Food & Beverage

CompHoppers  
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[comphoppers.com](http://comphoppers.com)  
Recreation

Hand Trucking  
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Transportation

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[projectpomona.com](http://projectpomona.com)  
Retail

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Construction

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Business Services

# 1970 archives - Sault Tribe administration, staff and community 'way back when..'



Bob Nygaard



Mary Beth Skupien



Submitted in 1970, but possibly from the 1950s.



George Nolan near the Soo Locks on the St. Marys River.

# Chairman discusses meeting goals, future plans



AUSTIN LOWES  
TRIBAL CHAIRMAN

Aaniin, I would like to begin my unit report with something positive: the Sault Tribe purchased the Sacred Heart Church property on Sugar Island! This property contains 130 acres, along with the Willwalk

Cemetery where so many of our ancestors are buried. This property has hosted the Sugar Island Powwow for many years. This purchase ensures the tribe's ability to host cultural events at this sacred location for the next seven generations.

In addition to providing cultural security, this acquisition also increases our land base. The tribe has the largest tribal membership east of the Mississippi River but we are land-poor. Since land is one of the best investments tribes can make, it has been a major goal throughout my chairmanship to strategically increase our land base. The tribe has purchased 700 acres on Sugar Island since I have been chairman, including 7,000 feet of shoreline, increasing our land base by 15%. Tribal citizens can

utilize this land to hunt, fish, gather, and practice their culture.

Another topic I am passionate about is Elder services. This spring, I will travel to the Oneida Nation to purchase three bison to supplement our Elder Meal Program, with a portion for our Language and Cultural Department's feasts and ceremonies.

The board amended its calendar to include a board meeting in Detroit this July. It is my goal to have a downstate meeting at least once a year. There are thousands of tribal citizens in the metro Detroit area. The Health Division's mobile medical unit will be available at this meeting to offer basic medical services for those attending. I am a strong supporter of expanding medical services outside the service area,

and I believe this is a step in the right direction.

The tribe's homeless shelter, the Lodge of Hope, continues to operate at full capacity with a long waiting list, demonstrating the need for this crucial service. Part of my job as chairman is to build relationships with government officials at the local, state, and federal level. One of these relationships has been with Michigan Senator John DaMoose, who recently toured the Lodge of Hope. Sen. DaMoose was so impressed he submitted a budget request for the state of Michigan to pay the shelter's operating costs for one year.

With Earth Month around the corner, I have asked tribal staff to find ways for the tribe to be a better environmental steward.

Suggestions so far have been outstanding, including no longer using Styrofoam products, reducing our reliance on single use plastic, and placing recycling trailers at various locations on our reservations. Our team members are incredible people, and I am grateful for their suggestions.

To close, I would like to inform our tribal citizens I have a plan to create a permanent location for Wellbriety meetings in Sault Ste. Marie. The Church of the Nazarene on Shunk Road, which has been vacant for some time, is suitable. It requires significant work; however, the tribe was recently awarded opioid settlement funds that can be used to renovate the church.

Miigwech!  
Austin Lowes  
Sault Tribe Chairman

## Thanking members for suggestions and needs



LANA CAUSLEY-SMITH,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT II

I hope this report finds everyone ready for spring! I love spring and am sure it makes it easier on Elders for sure to get around this year.

My report will be limited now per the Election Code rules — once you submit for a candidacy we become limited to 500 words. I will use them wisely.

As our intentions were last report — Director Lee and I completed and presented a resolution last meeting to confirm our funds for housing needs in our unit. We have gained the support to build our community/recreation facility and enhance the land we

purchased. We are in the start up phases of engineering engagements in hopes we can enhance our unit's Elder needs (bussing for other areas), an independent area for our youth education to grow and prosper the program, and enhance physical, mental and spiritual well being to the area's members.

We are also in the works to vet and look at land available in the Newberry area (thanks to a member's suggestions) and also enhance in the Hessel area. These items will unfold in the next few months as our departments vet the land.

We have also discussed ways we can fund and assist members with housing needs across our unit. We have a limited time to contract for the ARPA funds with the suspension of funds and the limited available staff to assist so we are in a time crunch to plan with these funds. We will work diligently to ensure we have a solid plan to accommodate housing needs all across our unit. It's great hearing the suggestions and needs from the members.

We recently passed resolutions to move around funding we have had for certain projects for all units and the tribe. I did not support the

changes and will continue to seek the funds in some form for the original purposes and to accommodate the recovery and addiction needs (we were reduced from \$25 million to \$5 million in the last year) and keeping all the funds for fishermen to go directly toward them. I have asked a resolution be brought forward for the funds.

Please reach out to me with any questions or concerns you have. Please take care of each other. Baamaapii.

Lana Causley-Smith  
Unit 2 Representative  
(906) 332-3818  
lcausley@saulttribe.net

## Slam the scam: Spotting government imposters

HILLARY HATCH, SOCIAL SECURITY PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

Do you know how to spot a government imposter scam? We continue to raise public awareness about Social Security-related and other government imposter scams during the fifth annual "Slam the Scam" Day on March 7, 2024. Knowing how to identify potential scammers will help safeguard your personal information.

There are common elements to many scams.

Scammers often take advantage of fears and threaten you with arrest or legal action. Scammers also pretend to be Social Security or other government employees and claim there's a problem with your Social Security number (SSN) or your benefits. They may even claim your SSN is linked to a crime.

When you suspect you've been contacted by a scammer:

Hang up right away or ignore the message.

Never provide personal information, money, or gift cards.

Report the scam immediately to our Office of the Inspector General (OIG) at [oig.ssa.gov/scam-awareness/report-the-scam](http://oig.ssa.gov/scam-awareness/report-the-scam).

If you owe money to Social Security, we'll mail you a letter with payment options and appeal information. We only accept payments electronically through Pay.gov, Online Bill Pay, or by check or money order.

We will never:

Threaten you with arrest or legal action because you don't agree to pay us money immediately.

Promise a benefit increase in exchange for money.

Ask you to send us gift cards, prepaid debit cards, wire transfers, internet currency, cryptocurrency, or cash through the U.S. mail.

Stay vigilant and help raise awareness about Social Security-related and other government imposter scams.

For more information, visit [www.ssa.gov/scam](http://www.ssa.gov/scam).

Tell your friends and family about government imposter scams. Let them know they don't have to be embarrassed to report if they shared personal financial information or suffered a financial loss. The important thing is to report the scam right away.

Together, we can "Slam the Scam!"

### 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.**

# McKechnie begins review of 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 back 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 in the tribal newspaper in 2008.)**

## 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 I - SOVEREIGNTY

Section 1. Source of Sovereignty. The People shall be the source of all governing authority and power vested in the Tribe by this Constitution.

Section 2. Supremacy. This Constitution shall be the supreme law over the government and all the People of the Tribe. All treaties, laws, compacts, and actions of the government shall be consistent with this Constitution. All laws of the Tribe existing at the time of adoption of this Constitution shall remain in effect so long as such laws are consistent with this Constitution. The Ogemaa shall cause to be completed and

presented to the Council a written assessment of the existing laws within six months of the adoption of this Constitution to determine which laws are inconsistent with this Constitution.

Section 3. Delegation of Sovereignty. The government shall exercise only the authority and powers granted by the People in this Constitution.

Section 4. Reserved Powers. Powers not granted to the government shall be reserved to the People.

## ARTICLE II - BILL OF RIGHTS

Section 1. Bill of Rights. The government of the Tribe shall not make or enforce any law which: (a) infringes upon religious or cultural beliefs or prohibits the free exercise thereof nor any law which establishes religion; (b) prohibits the freedom of speech, expression, or of the press, or the right of the People peaceably to associate or assemble, and to petition the government for redress of grievances; (c) infringes upon the right of any person otherwise eligible at any time to seek and hold elective public office; (d) violates the right of the People to be secure in the privacy of their persons, houses, papers, electronic and telecommunications information, vehicles, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures, nor issue warrants but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation signed by a Judge and particularly describing the place, person, house, or things to be searched, the object and scope of such search, and the person or thing to be seized, nor execute an arrest without probable cause, nor exercise a detention without reasonable suspicion; (e) subjects any person to search without probable cause or to interrogation while in custody without informing the person of their right to remain silent, to have access to an attorney, and to be advised that anything they say can be held against them in a court of law; (f) subjects any person to criminal prosecution or punishment more than once for the same offense arising out of the same incident, nor compels any person in any criminal case to be a witness against himself or herself; (g) discharges any person from employment without due process, or takes any private

property or possessory interest in private property for public use, without due process and just compensation; (h) discharges any person from employment or takes any other retaliation against an employee who makes public any information of misconduct by officials or employees of the Tribe; (i) denies to any person in a criminal or civil proceeding the right to a speedy and public trial, to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation, to be confronted with the witnesses against him or her, to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his or her favor, and in a criminal proceeding to have the assistance of counsel for his or her defense subject to income guidelines; (j) requires excessive bail, imposes excessive fines, or inflicts cruel and unusual methods of interrogation or punishment; (k) denies to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection, application, or opportunity under the law or deprive any person of liberty or property without due process of law, provided, that the government shall have the power to enact and implement laws that provide employment preferences; (l) directs a criminal proceeding against a specific individual or group, or punishes conduct after the fact through the enactment of laws or resolutions which criminalize such conduct; (m) denies to any person accused of an offense punishable by imprisonment the right upon request, to a trial by an impartial jury of not less than six persons, and all persons shall be presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law; (n) denies to any person the access to his or her own personal information maintained by the Tribe; (o) denies to any Person the right to own, bear, and use arms subject to regulation by the Tribe by law.

Section 2. Pardon Panel. There shall be a Pardon Panel comprised of the Ogemaa, the Speaker of the Council, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court or their designees, and two Members selected by the Ogemaa, the Speaker of the Council, and the Chief Justice. Upon submission of an application for a pardon, the Pardon Panel shall have the power to issue a pardon if three of the five Members vote to pardon in a public hearing, provided that no pardon may be issued

until the passage of three years from the date of conviction.

## ARTICLE III - TERRITORY AND JURISDICTION

Section 1. Territory. The Territory of the Tribe shall encompass all lands which are now or hereafter owned and held by the Tribe or owned by the Tribe and held in trust for the Tribe or Members by the United States, notwithstanding the issuance of any patent or right-of-way in fee or otherwise existing now or in the future. The Territory shall include lands and waters ceded by the 1836 Treaty or any other treaty entered into by the Tribe for purposes of exercising, regulating, and protecting reserved rights of hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering, and cultural, and ceremonial activities. The Territory shall include but not be limited to, the environment, air, airspace, all surface and subsurface land and water, and any resource severable from the land, minerals, and natural resources. No Territory shall be ceded unless authorized by law subject to the approval of the voters in a Special Election. No real property, tangible property, or intellectual property, of the Tribe, shall be transferred, mortgaged, or otherwise encumbered unless authorized by law.

Section 2. Jurisdiction. The Jurisdiction and governing authority of the Tribe shall extend to all persons, property, and activities within the Territory and shall include exercising, regulating, and protecting reserved rights to fish, hunt, trap, and other usual rights and privileges of occupancy over all lands and waters ceded by the Treaty of Washington of 1836 or any other treaty entered into by the Tribe. The Tribe shall have the power to assert the Sovereignty and Jurisdiction of the Tribe over all matters that affect the interests of the Tribe. Nothing in this Article shall be construed to limit the ability of the Tribe to exercise its Jurisdiction based upon law or its inherent sovereignty.

## ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Requirements. All persons shall be entitled to membership in the Tribe who possess: (a) Indian blood and who can trace their ancestry to any historical annuity or census roll of the seven historical bands, which

shall include Sugar Island, Grand Island, Point Iroquois, Sault Ste. Marie, Garden River, Drummond Island, and Mackinac; or, (b) Indian blood and who are validly enrolled as Members of the Tribe as of the date of the approval of this Constitution, which includes members of the Original Bands of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, and their lineal descendants.

Section 2. No Dual Membership. No person shall be a Member of the Tribe who is also a member of any other tribe or band of North American Indians.

## ARTICLE V - SEPARATION OF POWERS

Section 1. Branches of Government. There shall be one Legislative branch, one Executive branch, and one Judicial branch. There shall be a system of separation of powers and checks and balances between the branches of government. No branch of government or official of any branch of government shall exercise any power granted in this Constitution or properly delegated by law to any other branch of government except as expressly directed or permitted by this Constitution and each branch shall act as a check and balance upon the actions of the other branches as permitted by 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.

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

# Borowicz discusses general issues of the tribe



SHAWN BOROWICZ,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT III

Boozhoo Nijjii,  
The election season is upon

us and from the social media posts I've seen, there should be some very qualified candidates for all units. The new revised Election Commission has their work cut out for them and I'm sure they can handle any situation that may arise during the process. Remember these members are volunteers and they are doing this because they want to contribute to a better process for our tribe, just as all the previous election committees had done.

With the recent settlement of the vape lawsuit, the tribe received a large settlement. We initially planned to supplement the Land Claim/Elder Fund with some of this. This could not

happen with a direct deposit to the fund, according to the lawsuit stipulations, but we voted to put 25% of the net sales into the fund, which will be sold at our Midjim stores and casino gift shops to legal age customers.

Our tribal rolls opened in February and our Enrollment Dept. is in the process of going through the applications and issuing cards and other paperwork to new members. New staff was hired, both full time and temporary, to see this process is carried out in a timely and correct manner.

This is long overdue so all family members can rightfully belong to our tribe and

can receive benefits that were denied to some of them for such a long time, while other immediate family received these benefits.

Yet, some things will change during this process, some for the better and some possibly not, but we will change whatever needs to be changed so all members are benefitting. When all said and done, we are all proud Native people and no one should be denied this right.

We had some issues with our tribal fishermen who held conversion trap net licenses, and with the help of our Conservation Committee, our attorneys, biologist and the

board, this should be rectified within the month of February. Some of these fishermen have been waiting for this to take place for several years and now they can finally get back to business.

The upgrades to some of our properties are in the works and some are starting in the spring, all to give our customers a better experience so they will want to visit more often and take in what the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and our tribe has to offer.

I can be reached at sborowicz@saulttribe.net or (906) 379-8511.

Thank you.

# June 20, 2022, board workshop shows collusion



**BETTY FREIHEIT,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

**See for yourself. Go to: <https://duiepkprgpd.cloudfront.net/Board%20of%20Directors/06.20.2022%20-%20Workshop%20Editv2.mp4>. Or just type in your search browser: **June 20, 2022, Sault Tribe Workshop. Watch how board members and the then board secretary discussed not even picking up the ballots at the post office.****

our work as tribal board members.

The June 20, 2022, workshop that was noticed to the board did not include the intended content such that neither Austin nor I were informed there would actually be a lengthy discussion (or plot) about throwing out the 2022 election which saw 100% turnover of the incumbents. Next, I won't make an outright allegation, but somehow Bridgett Sorenson seemed to know the purpose of the closed workshop and left the conference early to be able to be present. Her comments during that secret workshop (that likely violated the Sault Tribe constitutional requirement for five days' notice and for all board members to be informed of the agenda items) were inflammatory and damning. Again, please see for yourself by watching the video. The same tribal constitutional requirement, tribal Open Meetings Act and the parliamentary meeting rules Tribal Code were also likely violated given this was a secret session in which the Sault Tribe members were not permitted to attend via Zoom.

So what was so egregious at this workshop? For one, once former Chairperson Aaron Payment resigned, and the board discussed how to fill the position, Bridgett Sorenson said, "WE SHOULD JUST APPOINT JENNIFER MCLEOD FOR ALL THE DIRTY WORK SHE DID FOR US."

Remember at the time, Jennifer McLeod was spearheading a removal petition to remove Aaron to match the old board plus four political coup against him. Also, recall the tribal board secretary at the time advised the board to simply not pick up the ballots at the post

office. This discussion occurred on the Monday before the 2022 tribal board election which happened on June 23, 2022. While the General Election had not occurred yet, with DJ Hoffman's loss in the primary weeks before (the only incumbent in our tribe's history to ever lose a primary), it appeared a foregone conclusion the voters were poised to throw out all of the incumbents. I believe the voters did so due to the suspected political coup against former Chairperson Payment and the falsehoods the old board told the people regarding claiming "At Large Members" were not eligible for Cares Act relief checks in the amount of \$2,000 like the inside service area members got. Our tribe cleared well over \$400 million between the Cares Act and Rescue Act so why would the old board be so stingy with our members? Its also important to note that the board had in our possession a letter from the U.S. Treasury Office that verified there was no such prohibition in law to prohibit "at large" members from receiving an equal share. Of course, the amount our tribe received in the Cares Act was based on the population in the service area only, but most if not all tribes across the nation shared critically needed relief funds with their citizens as that is our Indian way.

Additionally, some board members who are still on the board today (Mike McKeachie, Lana Causley, Bridgett Sorenson and Darcy Morrow) repeated the falsehood of claiming "at large" members were ineligible and even asserted our general legal counsel at the time issued a written opinion affirmation their falsehoods. Just the opposite is true. At the time, the former chairperson reported that a legal opinion was written to make clear no such prohibition existed. When Chairperson Payment publicly reported this, some board members demanded yet another legal opinion of whether or not it was a violation of code to reveal the first legal opinion. The next opinion affirmed that it did not violate any law, tribal code or rules of the tribe. Just think after spreading the falsehood in

the first place, those same board members wanted to conceal from you the truth that no such prohibition ever existed and were intent on punishing anyone who told you the truth.

I suspect some will continue to insist the legal probation existed and will further spread the false hood I the first place. Before they try another round of falsehoods, members should insist that they bring to the board table a written legal opinion that justifies discriminating against our at large members.

The June 20, 2022, secret meeting revealed some ugly truths about what happens behind closed doors. Recall, neither Austin nor I were apprised of the purpose of this workshop and never provided any idea of what would be discussed like throwing out the election, not picking up or counting the ballots, and holding out false claims of election violations to delay the swearing in of the 100% newly elected board members. This should never be allowed to happen again.

Listen and see for yourself as one by one the desperation surrounded the room like stench of corruption and collusion. This is demonstrated in the video to try to find a way to halt the transfer of power. One by one, as legal counsel corrected these schemes, those present (including Hoffman and the four who remain on the board to this day) spit out idea after idea of how to not honor the election even before it occurred. After Hoffman lost the primary, were they acting out of fear for their own seat as they could see what was coming? This is easily one of the ugliest days in our history and they almost got away with it.

Just think, Kim Gravelle, DJ Hoffman and Denise Chase were allowed to weigh in against their challengers to benefit themselves. Those who are still on the board (their seats were not up in 2022) are Lana Causley, Bridgett Sorenson, Mike McKeachie and Darcy Morrow were all present. In my last report, I shared the outcome of the 2023 Special Advisory election where Joanne Carr's sister was allowed to handle her sister's ballots and

weigh in on election complaints against her sister. This violates our election laws and the election attorney flouted the law by saying basically saying, "so what." Think of the arrogance to break our laws and have no remorse. This demonstrates the board's rightful action to disband the Election Committee, not renew the election attorney's contract, establish a new Election Commission and to vote to establish "truth in sentencing" in election rules and procedures so the body charged with conducting our elections can never again be used to target some candidates and advance others. I reported last month, the unjust \$1,500 fine against former Chairperson Aaron Payment following a supposed election violation that the Appellate Court overturned for the Committee's abuse of their authority and violation of due process of law.

While he has suffered the indignity of losing a Tribal Court battle to invalidate the appointment of Hoffman as Chair, his distinction as the only incumbent in our history to ever lose a re-election primary, and the humiliation at coming in third in the Special Advisory election for Chairperson in December of 2022, I believe an investigation is nonetheless warranted to determine Hoffman's role in orchestrating the Election investigations and targeting challengers. From Hoffman to his first cousin and former Election Chair Jamie McKeachie, this appears like retribution excised under the disguise of accountability. I have long said that it is improper for a candidate to be able to have a sibling or immediate family member on the Election Committee.

Finally, imagine how much tribal funds (estimated at over \$100,000) were squandered on election conspiracies, Hoffman's habitual appeals and targeting the winners.

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

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

## Sorenson discusses tribal matters for Unit III



**BRIDGETT SORENSON,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

increase the amount of the Youth Development Fund from \$150 to \$250 annually. This program covers sports fees equipment, driver's education, senior pictures, camps, dance, music, etc. Application can be found at saulttribe.com under Membership Services, Education and on the left.

I was asked to serve on an CTE Program Advisory Committee for the St. Ignace High School construction certificate program. The school is applying for approval and we are hopeful that the program will begin in the fall of 2024 and will be available for juniors and seniors. I was asked to participate because I have been asking the school to do something in the trades for our students. Recently

we have been able to replace some of the tools and equipment through 2% grants as well. I am very excited and honored to be involved in this program. As I currently serve as the Housing Commission chair, I see our struggles to recruit and retain construction laborers and leads. Many local contractors are struggling with trained people so that adds a severe strain on building and fixing houses in our local area.

The board passed a resolution to allow small boat captains to use up to a 32-foot long boat and large boat captains will be longer than 32 feet. This is a good thing for the safety of our fishermen to be able to have more room.

The board also voted to name our USDA building in the Sault

after Tony Nertoli. Tony was a great man who worked so hard to bring fresh and quality food to our people, even bringing a grocery store type setup so members could choose their own food. He advocated at the federal level and created a model program for other tribes.

The board passed a resolution to allow for the sale of e-cigarettes or vapes at our Midjims and casino gift shops with 25% of the net revenue going to the YEA and 25% to the Land Claim Fund.

The board passed the Election Commission bylaws and hearing procedures, which I abstained from since I am up for election. The chair of the Election Commission is Boyd Snyder.

I would like to say "Thank

You" to all of our team members that continue to work short handed and dedicate their career to our people. Lately, I have been very upset at the way some board members act like a firing squad towards our managers or directors and that is unacceptable.

A reminder to update your yearly information with PRC. The LIHEAP (heating assistance) program funds are exhausted but Elders may still receive help. The mortgage assistance program is still open; please contact Housing at (906) 495-1450 for more information.

I can be reached at bsorenson@saulttribe.net, bridgett91@yahoo.com or (906) 430-0536. Unit III meetings are held the third Monday of the month at 6 p.m. at the McCann School.

Since we are in an election cycle, my reports will be limited to 500 words.

The board recently agreed to

# Hampton gives Unit IV business overview



**KIMBERLY HAMPTON,**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV

Aniin kina waya (hello everybody). I hope that 2024 has been a good one for everyone so far. As we move closer to spring I encourage you all to consider planting a garden at home, even if it is a small garden. The benefits of gardening are relieving stress, growing healthier foods, saving money and also getting more sunlight which helps to produce more serotonin which makes a person happier.

#### 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 me 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, March 20, 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, March 18, 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, March 21, 2024, 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 and/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 March 13, 2024, 12 p.m. EST at the Manistique Tribal Center.

The next meeting in Escanaba will be held March 13, 2024, 5 p.m. EST at the Delta County Chamber Building.

#### January 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.

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 January 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 few months.

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. Updates on these projects will be provided as the projects progress.

#### Community Events

January/February:

Jan. 16-Kewading Gaming Authority meeting; Board workshop; Board Meeting.

Jan. 18-Progress meeting for Manistique Fitness Center and Escanaba Community Center; attended Tribal Action Plan Meeting; attended the Schoolcraft County Historical Society monthly meeting where their board voted to move forward with repatriation of Native artifacts.

Jan. 22-Attended budgets meeting; participated in and spoke at meeting regarding the Governor's Executive Order 14-112 pertaining to natural resources preservation; attended Conservation Committee meeting.

Jan. 23-Board workshop; attended a Grant writing workshop.

Jan. 25-Held Katchup with Kim

Jan. 26-participated in a walk through of the Manistique Fitness Center

Jan. 30-Board workshop

Feb. 1-Progress meeting on Manistique Fitness Center and Escanaba Community Center

Feb. 6-Board workshop and meeting

Feb. 8-Participated in a Manistique Dental expansion meeting

Feb. 9-Participated in Key Employee interviews

Feb. 12-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

# Unit IV construction projects progressing well



**DARCY MORROW,**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV

I would like to report that both of our construction projects in Unit 4 are coming along very well. I have attended onsite meet-

ings at both our projects to check on their progress. Escanaba's new community center built on our reservation is so beautiful. The new kitchen will be ready for any event we may have down the road. The community room will hold 200 people for an event. And if the elders want to hold their Christmas Dinner on site, we have the space so they can do that now. It also has a circular traditional healers' room with a fireplace and everything they need to perform their ceremonies and healing for members. There is also a conference room, office space, changing rooms with showers, and so forth...available inside the new facility.

Our new exercise facility being built in Manistique next to our health center is coming along

nicely. Another beautiful facility that will allow for year-round exercise, especially in the cold winter months we endure here in the UP. There is a separate exercise room with glass to see into the gym area. So, if parents are working out and their children are in the gym, they can keep an eye on them. There is a smaller room to be used for onsite classes like yoga, chair exercises for elders, rumba, and so forth. I would like to see onsite physical therapy added as a service for members, also. There will be 24-hour access with key fobs and onsite lockers and showers.

On both projects there are some items we are waiting on for a completion date.

There are positions posted for the Manistique exercise facility:

fitness center supervisor and weight room monitor. There will be some posted for the Escanaba center, please check with our HR department 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, 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 encourage members to please start attending board workshops and meetings either in person or via zoom. The link is <https://fs29>.

formsite.com/SaultT/q1aksnvjv3/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 the Sault Tribe's website, sign up for the Zoom link and then you will receive the invite to board workshops and meetings.

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

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

# Unit II directors working on community building



**KIMBERLY LEE,**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT II

Aanii! I hope you are doing well. Spring is right around the corner, bringing with it some sunshine!

Enrollment has opened as planned on Feb. 1. The team is experiencing a high volume of applications, phone calls and emails. To make it easier for everyone, they have updated the website with more information regarding what documents are required to prove tribal lineage. Please visit [saulttribe.com](http://saulttribe.com) to get your questions answered. We kindly ask you to be patient and respectful towards the team members who are working tirelessly to welcome new members and also

help the existing ones with their daily tasks.

The Election Commission has recently been revised and is now holding meetings to re-establish its responsibilities. These meetings are open to members in person and via Zoom, with a view-only attendance option available through a link on the web. This transparency is essential to keep members informed about the commission's progress. As election season approaches, it is hoped that the campaign will be honest and transparent, with the members' votes taking center stage.

Here are the dates for the

upcoming Election Commission meetings: Feb. 21, March 20, April 17, May 15, June 19 and July 17. All meetings will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Director Causley and I have been working diligently to establish the recreational, fitness, and community building in our area. The resolution was passed on Feb. 6, which allows us to move forward with our plans. This is an exciting time for Unit 2 because our community is in great need of these facilities.

We have been meeting with Housing and discussing the needs of our area in-depth. We are narrowing down our options to find

a solution that meets the demands of our community. As I continue to meet with members on various issues we face, it's clear that the demand for our needs as a tribe continues to grow.

Just a friendly reminder that the Elder Subcommittee meets every third Friday of the month at 10:30 a.m. at Zellars restaurant in Newberry for lunch and a meeting. Similarly, the Hessel elders also meet every third Monday at noon at the community center.

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



# Moving forward aggressively with our EDC



**TYLER LAPLAUNT**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT V

Aanii, Boozhoo!

I hope everyone is enjoying the light winter we have had thus far. Spring is fast approaching and many of you will be getting back out in nature to begin hunting, harvesting and gathering again. With the changes in weather this past year, I'd ask that you report anything unusual about harvesting and foraging of any type. I currently sit on the NIH Tribal Advisory Committee, and I'd like to use that position to inform them of any weather-related changes to the ecosystem. The NIH plays a heavy role in health research, and changes to our environment can be a huge factor for our health. So please keep the thought in your mind as you begin to venture out and practice our traditional lifeways.

This year, we are beginning to move forward aggressively with our EDC and looking into expanding the Sault Tribe's economic footprint. The University BP in Marquette turned out to be a very lucrative investment, and we are going to continue to search for opportunities both on and off reservation land to continue to expand and bring in other sources of revenue for the tribe.

Just some of what we've done to strengthen the EDC's ability to expand is allowing the sales of vapes on tribal land. Previously, this was not permitted. Sales are estimated to bring in around \$400k of additional revenue. Repealing the vape ordinance the tribe previously adopted will allow for those sales to resume. The board voted to dedicate 25% of net revenue from vape sales to the YEA program and another 25% of net revenue towards

the Lands Claim Fund or "Elder Fund." This is a fantastic idea and earmarks earnings to both begin to grow the Elder Fund and assist our youth and YEA programming.

Unit 2 also "paid back" lost revenue to the EDC for the Hessel Ridge Golf Course out of their ARPA funds through the revenue replacement mechanism. They proposed this idea because they wanted to build their community center in front of the golf course property. I'm all for community centers and their move will both bolster their community through a state-of-the-art community center, increase the EDCs liquid assets for future purchases, and give us as a tribe a much stronger argument to put the golf course in trust as we are now serving membership with that property. While I've been a critic of the golf courses in the past, I'd love to be proven wrong and see them succeed. Here's to a solid 2024 and hoping the best for all of our investments. Miigwech to Directors Causley and Lee for proposing this plan and caring for your community.

Finally, we are moving the Lume revenue under the EDC where it rightfully belongs. This will increase liquid assets of the EDC and allow us to make more investments in 2024 and beyond. By continuing to focus on sound business investments and allowing our EDC to operate with real assets and make decisions for the benefit of the tribe, we will create a more diversified business portfolio and earning potential for the future financial sustainability of the tribe.

As we continue to expand our EDC and economic footprint, repair our crumbling Kewadin infrastructure, and search out new opportunities for healthcare expansion, we are on the right path as a tribe. We still have a lot of work to do and a long way to go before we begin to see the fruits of all of these projects. This is about a seven generation philosophy and ensuring that we leave a better tribe for the next generation than we inherited. We will continue to search out new revenue streams and cut wasteful spending where we find it.

On the topic of healthcare, the facility in Marquette is still undergoing a final phase of engi-

**It's a Gathering**  
All are welcome!

2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month

**5:30 - 8PM**

**LAKEVIEW ARENA**  
Community room 401 E Fair MQT 49855

Food sponsored by the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Contributions to the refreshment table are welcome.

Drum practice.  
Crafting.  
Visiting.  
Socialization  
Stories  
(when appropriate)

neering and the project should be bid out in 1-2 months' time. This is the opportune time as Blue Stone, our health consultants, will be able to review the final project and ensure the project meets the current needs of the community.

Beyond Marquette, we've currently been looking into other areas to expand access to healthcare. Looking at our at-large population, it makes sense to begin looking at the idea of healthcare services in the Detroit Metro Area. I had our team take a brief look at the demographics, and within 70 miles of the Detroit Metro Area, we have just over 7,000 Tribal citizens. That rivals the population of Unit 1 and the surrounding Sault Area. We also have the Sibley property that failed to go into trust because the tribe, prior to my term, couldn't prove how it would benefit our membership. There is no better way to benefit our tribal people than by providing access to healthcare.

What does this all mean? It means we need to look into operating health services where it makes the most sense. Again,

we need to utilize our partnership with Blue Stone to look into the feasibility of this type of programming. However, there is a lot of opportunity in the market in Lower Michigan, both for health-care expansion and Economic Development. We need to start investing wisely. Investing in our people is always a wise decision.

Finally, we will be undergoing some changes with our online gaming platform. This has been in the works now for several months. As many of you may have heard, Wynn began closing down their online platforms in many of their markets. Our Kewadin and Legal team worked with Wynn and several other companies to make the best possible move for our tribe to continue to operate with minimal loss in online gaming revenue. At the time of this writing, this move hasn't been announced yet, but will be shortly before this publication. Therefore, I can't go into much detail, but please look for the press release if you haven't already seen it. This is a good move for the tribe and I'm excited for the new partnership.

The next Unit 5 Elder Meeting and Meal in Munising will be held on Thursday, March 7, at the Munising Tribal Health Center, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. All you need to do to participate is be a Unit 5 Elder aged 60-plus.

The next Unit 5 Elder Meeting and Meal in Marquette for March has been cancelled due to a scheduling conflict with the Holiday Inn. Meetings and Meals for the Marquette area Elders will resume on the first Thursday of every month in April. We are sorry for any inconvenience. Once the Marquette Area Community Center is open, we will have plenty of opportunities to meet.

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

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

# Instead of throwing rocks, build with rocks



**MICHAEL MCKERCHIE,**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Awhile back, I shared a story that my mom used to tell of there being two types of people: 1) People who throw rocks and 2)

People who build with rocks. She taught me to build. She said you may have to duck from time to time, and you may be tempted to throw some of the rocks thrown at you, but don't — just keep building. She wanted us all to be builders, so let's keep building.

This story holds even more true years later. Its not always easy leading by example, and there are times when you want to fight fire with fire, but I urge you all not to. If some people want to go that route and burn things to the ground, that is on them. I will try my best to stop them every step of the way, but most importantly, I will be here to help build our tribe back up when needed. That is who I am.

I've always wanted to help my

tribe move forward and I believe we have accomplished a lot in the years I've been fortunate to represent our nation. Together we have expanded our school, established several health and community buildings, re-created and expanded our economic development into several new businesses, as well as started our recent renovations on our casino. I'm proud to say that I've been a full-time board member since I first began sitting on various local, state, and national committees. I've had the honor to represent our tribe in negotiations, consultations, as well as being a delegate and sitting on several task forces; but we still have a lot of work to get done.

There is still some dysfunction

at the board level. Don't get me wrong — the board has good days and bad days. The board continues to struggle with keeping each other accountable and for changing direction on several projects. When the board is overly-involved either by micro-managing or simply inserting itself into the process, it's difficult to hold anyone accountable. "The board said..." is often used; a better structure is needed to direct our executives and achieve our goals without constant board interference.

In this ultra-political environment, many team members find it hard to navigate as the board votes one way but differing opinions often lead to mixed messages and thus things get changed

to help accommodate certain factions. This leads to additional misunderstandings often resulting in the board having to re-visit the issue and many times leading to different outcomes and the process starts all over again. This has resulted in several delays and continues to be problematic for our tribe and our ability to move forward. We should be sticking to the resolutions and the resolutions alone and allow our team members to perform their duties to those resolutions passed by the Board.

As always, please reach out to me to discuss any of these or any issues, I can be reached at (906) 440-7768.

Chi Miigwetch  
Michael McKerchie

# Walking on continued from page 16

## DEBORAH "DEB" MCNEILL

Deborah "Deb" McNeill, 68, of Christmas, Mich., died surrounded by her loving family, Thursday, Feb. 8, 2024 at UPHS-Marquette following a brief illness. She was born Oct. 29, 1955 in Mount Clemens, Mich., and was raised by her parents Celia O'Neil and Harry Matthes, growing up in the Detroit area.



Deb graduated from Carl Brablec High School in 1973. After working at a number small jobs and being a homemaker for twenty years, Deb went to school at Delta College and earned her degree as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN). She worked as a nurse at Mid-Michigan Hospital in Midland and Mercy Hospital in Port Huron as well as a home health nurse at Concerned Home Care.

In 2008, while on a trip to the U.P. Deb and Dave found themselves in Christmas. Deb made him stop the car to investigate a for sale sign, by the time they reached their destination in Sault Ste. Marie they had bought that home in Christmas.

Deb was a proud member of the Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Tribe and was an elder of the Grand Island Band. She attended church at the United Methodist Church in Munising and was willing to volunteer and help all those who needed her. Deb also had a passion to care for the animals. She and Dave housed and adopted countless furry friends over the years. Now if you can't quite pinpoint how you know Deb from the many things she did, it may be that bright smile and friendly wave you recognize her from. Deb loved to walk and no matter if you had been friends for years, or a tourist traveling through town for the first time, Deb always had a welcoming smile and wave to brighten your day.

She is survived by her husband – Dave McNeill of Christmas; children – Christian James (Tiffany) Brown of Port Huron, Mich., Heather Lee (Aaron Zook) Brown of Pinckney, Mich., and Michael David McNeill of Pinson, Tenn.; grandchildren – Kirsten, Kailey, Seth, and Sawyer Brown, and Ryan McNeill; siblings – David Watson, Kenneth (Patricia) Watson, Gina (Sue) Watson, and Kimberly Watson; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and in-laws.

Deb was preceded in death by her parents - Celia and Harry; sons – Shawn Aaron McNeill and Michael Reyes; and sister-in-law – Carol Watson.

Private family services are being held.

If you would like to make a donation in Deb's name, please consider donating to the Alger County Animal Shelter or the Alger Community Food Pantry.

Her obituary and online guest-book may be viewed and signed at [bowermanfuneralhome.net](http://bowermanfuneralhome.net).

## DONALD "SKERCH" EDWARD MCKERCHIE

Donald "Skerch" Edward McKerchie, 65, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., died at his home, on Jan. 15, 2024. He was born Dec. 21, 1958, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., to James Benjamin and Della Mae (Lewis) McKerchie.

Don grew up in Sault Ste. Marie and graduated from Sault High School in 1978. He began working at the Soo Corner Store, Soo Co-op grocery store and for the last 25 years he worked at Weir's and UP Carpet Mart as a furniture and floor salesman.

Skerch will be missed by many who knew him. He was a good man, loving brother, and a helpful uncle.

Don had a love for sports and enjoyed watching Red Wing hockey, Detroit Tigers, Detroit Lions, and Michigan Wolverine football. Go Lions!

Don is survived by his brother, Ronald McKerchie of Apple River, Ill.; sisters, Diane Vanhouten of Honor, Mich., Linda (Larry) Duncan of Shawboro, N.C., Patricia Pelky of Shawboro, N.C.; and many nieces and nephews.

Don is preceded in death by his parents, James and Della McKerchie; brother, James "Skip" McKerchie; brothers-in-law, Harry Vanhouten and Jerry Pelkey.

There will be no services, per Skerch's wishes.

Family Life Funeral Homes is serving the family. Condolences may be left to the family at [www.csmulder.com](http://www.csmulder.com).

## JAMES WISNISKI

James Wisniski, known affectionately as 'Nipper,' passed away on Jan. 18, 2024. Born on June 29, 1943, in Manistee, Mich., he was the son of the late Grace McCormick and James 'Slug' Wisniski.



Nipper's life was one marked by love for family, dedication to others, hard work, and the warmth of his vibrant personality.

A graduate of Manistee High School in 1962, Nipper was part of the Manistee Chippewa's 1961 state championship football team. He cherished his teammates and they remained friends throughout his life. He continued on to play football at the University of Indiana.

In 1964 Nipper married his beloved wife, Yolanda Green, and together they built a life rich in love. Nipper was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, and his family was the cornerstone of his life. Nipper and Yolanda would have celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary this June.

Nipper started his career in the plumber and pipefitters union and was known for his impeccable skill in his trade. He eventually became a project manager and moved with his family 27 times to nine different states. His son and grandson followed in his

footsteps as welding engineers. In his retirement, he served the Onekama community on the township board.

He is survived by his wife Yolanda, sons Jami and Susie Wisniski and Jeff and Heidi Wisniski, daughter Kirsten Wisniski, daughter-in-law Kathy Driggs-Wisniski, his sisters Kathe (David) Cabot and Rita Wisniski-Ballard. He leaves behind a legacy of love and cherished memories with his grandchildren: Dakota, Brandon, Tara, Caleb (Lauren), Chloe, Sophie, Skylar, Cheyenne, Ian, Nate, Nick, Riley and Marie; his great-grandchildren: Aubree, Declan, Cayd and Elaina; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and his father and mother-in-law, William and Winona Green.

Nipper was above all passionate and proud of his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was an ardent supporter and familiar face at all of their activities, whether it was motocross, football, basketball, volleyball, track, golf, concerts, talent shows or dance recitals. He loved to talk, and he especially loved to talk about his grandchildren.

He was a jack of all trades and could fix just about anything. Many people brought him projects to weld or to consult on for repair. His garage was a busy place especially with his son's



**Greeted by a new day.** projects.

One of his favorite pastimes was classic cars. He and his sons worked together to build their first cars, a 1969 Chevelle and a 1955 Chevrolet. He enjoyed going for rides in the '55 Chevy in the summer around Manistee County.

Nipper was a cherished member of the Onekama community, and there were many kids who called him Grandpa Nipper through the years. He was honored by this and treated them each as his own. The doors of the Wisniski home are always open to anyone who wanders in, often with the Wisniski's grandchildren. Nipper treasured his role as

a coach, mentor, and surrogate grandfather. He set an example for those around him about the joys found from opening his heart up wide and treating everyone he met like family.

A memorial service to celebrate Nipper's life was held on Jan. 27, at the Onekama Fair Pavilion. The family invited all to share in their love for Nipper, and asked that your contribution be stories and memories of love to share.

Nipper will be deeply missed, but his legacy will continue to inspire all who knew him. His was a life well-lived, full of purpose, joy, earned wisdom, and an abundance of love.

# RECOVERY GALA

PRESENTED BY:  
SAULT TRIBE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

## ADULTS ONLY: RECOVERY SOCIAL EVENT

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT  
NO DRESS CODE

Dinner, Dancing, DJ, Photobooth, Door Prizes, etc.  
150 attendee max - registration is preferred but not required.

MARCH 8TH, 2024

# LSSU CISLER CENTER – SUPERIOR BALLROOM

## 7PM-11PM

This event is sponsored by SAMHSA  
grant #3H79TI085653-02S1



# KEWADIN CASINOS ENTERTAINMENT

# LORRIE MORGAN

Very Special Guest  
**Jamie O'Neal**



**DREAMMAKERS THEATER  
FRIDAY, APRIL 19 - 8P.M.**

TICKETS \$31.50 | \$41.50 | \$51.50

A RENOWNED FORMER LEAD GUITARIST OF THE EAGLES



# Don Felder

4X GRAMMY WINNER • ROCK & ROLL HALL OF FAME MEMBER

PERFORMING THE EXPLOSIVE HITS HE CO-PENNE  
OR PERFORMED FOR 27 YEARS!

**EVENT CENTER | MAY 24 | 8 P.M.**  
TICKETS \$51.50 | \$61.50



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**\$29.50**  
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FEBRUARY 24, 2024 - KEWADIN CASINOS DREAM MAKERS THEATER - DOORS 7PM SHOW 8PM

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NEW ALBUM  
THE HILL  
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**Aaron  
Lewis**

**FRIDAY  
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DREAMMAKERS THEATER  
TICKETS \$85 | \$75 | \$60**



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[TICKETS.KEWADIN.COM](https://tickets.kewadin.com)

## THE GANG'S ALL HERE TOUR

# SKID ROW

**MARCH 23 | 8 P.M.**

**DREAMMAKERS THEATER**  
TICKETS \$51.50 | \$61.50



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