



Win Awenen Nisitotung

December 26, 2024
Little Spirit Moon • Manidoo Giizis
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Bahweting Bidajimowin • Official newspaper of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

Sault Tribe board announces competitive pay increases for all employees

WAGE INCREASES WILL ENSURE TRIBAL JOBS ARE COMPETITIVE WITH THE JOB MARKET, HELP WITH RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — The Sault Tribe Board of Directors announced Dec. 19 that it has unanimously approved the results of compensation studies for Tribal Government, Economic Development Corporation (EDC), and Kewadin Casino employees that will result in improved wages for all employees. This milestone reflects the tribe's commitment to recognizing the hard work, dedication and positive impact of its workforce.

community, our family, and it's important that we take care of each other," said Sault Tribe Chairman Austin Lowes. "We are proud that the board's unanimous decision will result in a base salary increase for hundreds of Sault Tribe employees to ensure that we are offering competitive wages based on the market rate for every position."

Recommendations that will be implemented from the compensation studies include:

— Pay Adjustments: All non-tipped employees will receive

either an increase to the minimum of their updated compensation range or a 3% pay adjustment, whichever is greater.

— Retroactive Pay:

Employees will also receive retroactive pay for the period of Oct. 1, 2024, through Dec. 31, 2024. These payments are expected to be distributed in January 2025.

One key wage adjustment will be increasing the minimum wage for tribal employees to \$14.50 per hour for government employees and to \$15 per hour for EDC

and Kewadin employees, which leaders expressed as vital to competing in today's job market.

"From elder services to cultural program and natural resources and everything in between, our employees are integral to the work we do to serve and support the community," said Sault Tribe Executive Director Christine McPherson. "Implementing the recommendations from the compensation studies demonstrates that we value our team and their contributions to our collective suc-

cess." "This is positive step for the tribe to be able to bring all team member wages to compete with what other employers in the market are offering. We really appreciate the guidance and work of our leadership who ensured that this initiative was successful," said Dan Doyle, executive director of the Sault Tribe Economic Development Corporation

Kewadin Casino CEO Allen Kerridge said the board's action to improve the tribe's investment

See "Pay increase," page 12

Tribe's 2% funding \$1M this fall, \$53M since inception

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — Communities throughout the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians' seven-county service area are benefitting from a total of \$1,010,348.52 in contributions from the tribe this fall. The support to local government and community organizations is part of the twice-annual payments the Sault Tribe has distributed since 1993 to U.P. communities based on 2% video gaming revenues from its Kewadin Casino properties.

of local government services, senior and veterans programs, parks and recreation and public safety across the U.P."

Rudyard Area Schools is one of 83 different beneficiaries of the Sault Tribe's fall 2024 2% community contributions. It will receive \$20,000 to support ongoing maintenance of its pool.

"We have the only public pool in the region, so it gets a lot of use. These funds will help provide important maintenance so that it remains an asset that everyone can enjoy year-round," said Rudyard Schools Superintendent Tom McKee. "The Sault Tribe has been an outstanding partner, and we appreciate their ongoing support."

St. Ignace City Manager Scott Marshall said the tribe and Kewadin's contributions of \$15,000 for CPR devices and \$14,223 for wastewater system

upgrades are helping the city provide quality public services to the community.

"The Sault Tribe and the Kewadin Casino have always been valued members of the community. We appreciate their collaboration and are thankful for their ongoing engagement and contributions to help ensure residents of this region have the best quality of life possible," said Marshall.

Other communities and local programs benefitting from the 2% contributions include:

- \$25,000 to support the Alger Community Food Pantry in Munising
- \$15,815 toward the Central U.P. Critical Incident Stress Management Mental Health Fund in Marquette County
- \$15,000 for CPR devices and \$14,223 for waste water system upgrades in St. Ignace.
- \$9,545 to Memory Lane Life Stations at the Schoolcraft Medical Care Facility in Manistique
- \$4,000 for fire fighter masks for the city of Escanaba

• \$3,000 each to nine different school districts throughout Unit 4 (Delta, Schoolcraft and Marquette counties) in support Native American education curriculum.

The Sault Tribe has now contributed more than \$53 million to Upper Peninsula communities within its service area since it began distributing 2% of its Kewadin Casinos video gaming revenue in 1993. Those interested in reviewing current and past recipients are encouraged to visit <https://kewadin.com/2-percent-donating/>.

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Photo by Scott Brand

KEWADIN CASINO HOLDS ANNUAL CAN-A-THON — Kewadin Casino Sault Ste. Marie donated \$500 to the local Salvation Army that was raised during their annual can-a-thon drive. L-R: Brandon Fish, Kewadin Casino Vice President of Marketing and Sales Shawn Carlson, Bill Carie, Salvation Envoy Eric Gilbert, Kewadin Casino CEO Allen Kerridge and casino General Manager Dana Schlehber. In addition to the check, the group delivered well over 1,000 pounds of canned and non-perishable food to help stock the pantry on Dec. 5. See more photos and story on page 13 of this issue.

Tribal member bags 8-pointer



Sault Tribe member Adam Ingalls shot this 8-point in Muskegon County on Dec. 10, 2024.

NEW YEARS SOBRIETY POW WOW

★ Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians
Welcomes Everyone.

★ Dec. 31, 2024, Big Bear Arena,
2 Ice Circle
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Vendors: Set up 2 p.m., Doors open 3 p.m. Dinner at
5 p.m., Sobriety Recognition, 6 p.m.,
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Head Veteran – Nick VanAlstine
Arena Director – Les Ailing

Host Drum – Mission Hill

Invited Drum – Sturgeon Bay

Emcee – Joe Medicine ★

Co Host Drum – Gumshoe Singers

Head Dancers - TBA

Vendors Free / Must be Tribal: To reserve space, contact Becki Miller
at rmiller@saulttribe.net. For pow wow or vender Info: 906-635-6510,

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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 (forms available online or contact Lona/Ashlee) 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 - Four vacancies -

two males (4-year term), two females (4-year term)
Child Welfare Committee - Two vacancies (4-year term); One vacancy - term expires November 2026; One vacancy - term expires January 2027
Higher Education Committee - Three vacancies (4-year term)
Special Needs/Enrollment Committee - (2-year term)
 Unit II - Two vacancies
 Unit III - Two vacancies

Unit IV - One vacancy
Elder Advisory Committee
 Unit I - Sault - One alternate vacancy (4-year term)
 Unit II - Newberry - One regular vacancy, one alternate vacancy (4-year term)
 Unit II - Naubinway - One regular vacancy (4-year term)
 Unit III - St. Ignace - One regular vacancy, two alternate vacancies (4-year term)
 Unit IV - Escanaba - One regular vacancy, term set to expire

August, 2026
 Unit V - Marquette - One alternate vacancy (4-year term)
Elder Subcommittees
 Unit I - Sault - One alternate vacancy - term expiring November 2026
 Unit II - Naubinway - Two regular vacancies - both terms expiring May 2027
 Unit III - St. Ignace - One regular vacancy - term expiring April 2027
 Unit IV - Manistique - One

regular vacancy - term expiring November 2026
 Unit IV - Escanaba - One regular vacancy (4-year term), two regular vacancies - terms expiring May 2026, one alternate vacancy (4-year term)
 Unit V - Munising - Two alternate vacancies (4-year term)
 Unit V - Marquette - Two alternate vacancies - one 4-year term, one term expiring December 2027.

Tribal gas and cigarette discount locations

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

Tribal owned gas stations offering gas and cigarette discounts:

- Midim Community Store, Mackinac Trail, St. Ignace, MI
- White Pine Lodge Community Store, E. W. M-8 Chistmas, MI

- Midim Community Store, Mackinac Trail, St. Ignace, MI
- White Pine Lodge Community Store, E. W. M-8 Chistmas, MI

- offering gas discount only:**
- University BP, W. Fair Ave, Marquette, MI
- Not tribal-owned stations that are offering gas discounts only:**
- Kinross BP, 4000 Tard Road, Kinross, MI
 - Cedar Parkway, W M-4

- Cedarville, MI
- Sault Ste. Marie, MI
- Manistique Oil Company, Deer Street, Manistique, MI
- Caras Eco Fuels, Leighton St, Escanaba, MI

WIOA funding is available

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

The program may be able to provide tuition assistance for skills training if it leads to an industry-recognized certification or under OJT, it may reimburse an employer 50 percent of your wage for a specified period.

Candidates must meet eligibility requirements and reside in the seven-county service area.

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



Pharmacy hours expanded at Sault Ste. Marie Tribal Health

Effective Nov. 12, 2024, the Sault Tribe Health Pharmacy located in Sault Ste. Marie will open at 7:30 a.m. instead of 9 a.m. allowing the pharmacy to accommodate patients who require earlier access to pharmacy services.

New Pharmacy Hours Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Closed Saturday and Sunday.

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

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

	First/Middle/Last Name	
	Date of Birth	
	Date of Death	
	Murdered/When/Where	
	Perpetrator Name if known:	
	If Missing:	
	Nickname/Alias	
	Date Last Seen/Went Missing	
	Physical Description	
	Distinctive Physical Features	
	Vehicle Information	

Any information would be appreciated.

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

Sault Tribe Member Newspaper Subscription Form

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

new subscription
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Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____

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Phone: _____

Email: _____

Win Awenen Nisitotung

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

**December 26, 2024
 Little Spirit Moon
 Manidoo Giizis**

Jennifer Dale-Burton.....Editor
 Sherrie Lucas.....Executive Asst.
 Brenda Austin.....Staff Writer
 Scott Brand.....Staff Writer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Submission and Subscriptions: Win Awenen Nisitotung Attn: Communications Dept. 531 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783; (906) 632-6398 Email: slucas@saulttribe.net or jdale-burton@saulttribe.net

See Thrive's online business directory:
saulttribethrive.com/business-directory/

Membership liaisons help answer your questions

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

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

- Clarence Hudak, Lambert Center, St. Ignace, Mich., (906) 643-2124, chudak@saulttribe.net.
- Mary Jenerou, Manistique Tribal Center, (906) 341-8469; Munising Centers, (906) 450-7011 or (906) 450-7011, mjenerou@saulttribe.net.
- Michelle Moore at (906) 635-6050, mmoore@saulttribe.net.

Up to date members' addresses sought

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

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

Go to saulttribe.com and scroll down Membership Services to Tribal Enrollment. Then go to the Information column on the left side of the Enrollment page and select "Up to date addresses sought."

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

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Justice Department announces tribal consultations to address jurisdictional balance in Indian Country

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department has announced it will hold tribal consultations around its consideration of legislative proposals to address the balance of jurisdiction in Indian country that was upended by the Supreme Court's 2022 decision in *Oklahoma v. Castro-Huerta*.

Indian Country is a legal term that generally describes tribal reservations, lands, communities, and allotments that fall under the jurisdiction of the United States.

Until two years ago, there was a long-held understanding, shared by the federal government and tribes, that a law passed by Congress, the General Crimes Act, limited a state's authority to prosecute some crimes committed in Indian Country, namely those crimes committed by non-Indian defendants against Indian victims. Those crimes could be prosecuted only by federal or tribal

authorities. In *Castro-Huerta*, the Supreme Court rejected that understanding.

Instead, the Supreme Court ruled that the General Crimes Act does not limit a state's inherent jurisdiction to prosecute non-Indian defendants who commit crimes against Indian victims in Indian Country. In other words, based on the Supreme Court's decision, the federal government, states, and tribes now have concurrent jurisdiction to prosecute these types of crimes throughout the United States.

Because the Supreme Court's decision was based on the language in a statute, Congress, exercising its constitutional plenary power over Indian affairs, could pass legislation restoring the previous balance of jurisdiction in Indian Country.

"The Department of Justice is committed to working with Native communities to advance

our shared goal of tribal safety while respecting and uplifting tribal sovereignty," said Attorney General Merrick B. Garland. "These upcoming consultations are consistent with the Department's longstanding practice of working collaboratively with our tribal partners to promote safe communities throughout Indian Country."

The Justice Department and the Department of the Interior (DOI) held joint listening sessions on Sept. 26-27, 2022, to discuss with tribal representatives the implications of the *Castro-Huerta* decision and the impact on tribal communities. More than 500 tribal leaders and other tribal representatives participated in these discussions. Several clear themes emerged, including a view from tribes that the *Castro-Huerta* decision diminished tribal sovereignty, injected confusion into a complex legal and opera-

ational landscape, and presented long-term implications for state interference in tribal affairs. A common view emerged that legislation and clarifying federal guidance were in order.

Several tribes also reported that *Castro-Huerta* has negatively impacted their cross-deputization, cross-jurisdictional, and other cooperative law enforcement agreements with states, which prior to *Castro-Huerta* were an important part of successful law enforcement and criminal justice schemes on many reservations.

Based on those listening sessions, other feedback, and experience over the past two years, the Justice Department is now considering whether to support a legislative proposal to restore the previous balance of jurisdiction in Indian country and, if so, what form that legislation should take. Two draft proposals are presented for Tribal review and consider-

ation.

Both proposals make clear that states lack jurisdiction over crimes within Indian Country committed by or against Indians, unless expressly authorized by federal statute. Both proposals also state that unless otherwise authorized by federal statute, states must, before exercising such jurisdiction, (1) ensure compliance with the procedures for obtaining tribal consent of the impacted Indian tribe, and (2) where applicable, comply with a procedure to amend the state constitution or laws.

The Department is releasing a framing paper, which will be available on the Department's Tribal Justice and Safety website and includes additional background and the two legislative proposals.

The Justice Department plans to hold consultations in January 2025.

Protecting Indigenous students' right to wear regalia

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Legislation that would require all educational institutions in Michigan to allow Indigenous students to wear traditional regalia to graduation ceremonies moved forward Dec. 4 in the legislature.

The House Higher Education Committee approved moving

the bills for a vote in the full legislative body. If they pass a vote in the House, they would also have to clear a vote in the Senate before being signed into law.

The bills were originally introduced in June 2023 as part of the Michigan Indigenous Culture and Heritage Package.

HB4853 and HB4854 would amend the state's Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act and school code to prohibit discrimination against Indigenous people who wear traditional regalia to school ceremonies, including graduations and events held to honor student achievements.

Indigenous students across

the U.S., including Sault Tribe students, have fought bans on traditional regalia at school ceremonies. At least 12 other states have passed laws allowing Indigenous people to honor their traditions at public events.

Protected under the bills would be traditional regalia, including items that hold tribal,

ancestral, or ceremonial significance - such as headdresses, masks, feathers, and beadwork.

Legally prohibited items such as weapons would not be protected by the bills.

For updates on the legislation, visit <https://www.legislature.mi.gov> and search for HB4853 and HB4854.

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Biden proclaims Carlisle Federal Indian Boarding School to be designated as a national monument

BY BRENDA AUSTIN
At the fourth and final White House Tribal Nations Summit of the Biden-Harris Administration, President Biden announced a proclamation, which he signed on Dec. 9, 2024, establishing the Carlisle Federal Indian Boarding School National Monument in Carlisle, Penn.

Issued under the Antiquities Act, the proclamation "acknowledges the painful past of forced assimilation of Native children through the implementation of federal Indian boarding school policies," an Interior Department

release said.
The annual White House Tribal Nations Summit provides an opportunity for federal and tribal leaders from the 574 federally recognized tribes to discuss ways the federal government can invest in and strengthen nation-to-nation relationships.
The newly designated national monument is on 24.5 acres of what is now the U.S. Army's Carlisle Barracks, one of the nation's oldest military installations and will be managed cooperatively by the National Park Service and the U.S. Department

of the Army.
According to a White House press release, this is the first-ever comprehensive effort by the federal government to recognize the troubled legacy of federal Indian boarding school policies and address their intergenerational impacts.
The monument encompasses the original buildings and structures that made up the campus of the Carlisle School – including School Road gateposts that were built by Native children at the school.
From 1879 to 1918, the school

subjected about 7,800 children from more than 140 tribes, including Alaska Native villages, to its education program. Carlisle school officials forced children to cut their hair, prohibited them from speaking their Native languages, and subjected them to harsh labor. Some children were as young as five years old when they arrived.
More than 180 children died while attending the school; many of them are buried in marked gravesites at the Carlisle Barracks Main Post Cemetery. The school served as the

template for more than 400 additional institutions across 37 states that were part of a forced assimilation system designed to eliminate Native languages, religions and cultures.
The Administration also announced an all-of-government strategy to preserve and revitalize Native languages. The strategy would expand access to immersion language programs in schools, support community-led language education efforts, and promote Native language schools and programs.

Hiawatha National Forest is recruiting for Resource Advisory Committee members, apply by December 31!

The Hiawatha National Forest is recruiting individuals to be members of its Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) that was established as required by the Sectional Rural School Community Self-Determination Act.

In the review application will take place at the start of the winter, so all interested individuals are encouraged to submit their applications by Dec. 31.

The Forest Service's Sectional Rural Schools (SRS) Program provides a necessary funding to rural communities across the U.S. and Puerto Rico through school roads, schools, and other municipal services. The program was established in 1980 to complement activities with Forest Service land for potential uses. Tax revenue due to federal land ownership. The Forest Service distributes a portion of sales, mineral leases, recreation grazing and other resources to the states and counties containing national forests and grasslands.

Over the past ten years, the Forest Service has distributed \$1 billion across the country through the SRS program. Payments are divided into three categories: Title II – Road and Schools; Title II – Projects on Federal Land; and Title III – County Projects. The Hiawatha RAC serves the critical role of reviewing and providing recommendations for SRS Title II projects (projects on Federal Land) in Chippewa County.

The RAC is made up of fifteen members who are appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture. Membership will have a land area and diverse representation and individuals who are recreation users, members of environmental organizations, elected officials, tribal representatives, school officials, timber industry, public at large, and other interested groups. The Hiawatha aims to have representation from each of the fifteen sub-categories listed below:

- Category A: Five persons who represent –
1 Organized labor or a timber forest product manufacturer
2 Developed recreational

- activities, commercial recreation activities
3 Energy administration and environmental, commercial recreation, fishing interests
4 Commercial timber industry
5 Federal grazing permits on public lands and persons representing an interest in the forest land areas within the area for which the committee is organized
Category B: Five persons who represent –
1 Nationally recognized environmental organization
2 Regionally or locally recognized environmental organization
3 Dispersed recreational activities
4 Archeological and historical interests
5 Nationally or regionally recognized wildlife or fish and wildlife organization, watershed association
Category C: Five persons who represent –
1 State elected officials (not a designee)
2 County or local elected officials

- 3. American Indian tribes within or adjacent to the area for which the committee is organized
4. Area school officials or teachers
5. Affected public-at-large
RAC members must reside within the State of Michigan, and to the extent practicable within the RAC boundary, which is Chippewa County. Nominees will be evaluated based on their education, training, and experience working with the interest area they represent, their knowledge of the geographic area covered by the RAC, their demonstrated commitment to collaborative resource decision-making and their contribution to the balance and diversity of the RAC. More information may be requested to determine qualifications.
Initial review of applications will take place at the start of the new year, so interested individuals are encouraged to submit their applications by Dec. 31, 2024. Selected candidates will serve a four-year term. RAC business is normally conducted during two or three meetings

per year and typically held in Chippewa County. Meetings are usually one to two hours in length.
To apply, please fill out the Interest Form (required), Form AD-755: Advisory Committee or Research and Promotion Background Information (required), and any supporting

documents such as a resume (optional) and send by mail or email to: McKenzie Fox-Potter, RAC Coordinator, Hiawatha National Forest, 820 Rains Drive, Gladstone, MI 49837.
McKenzie Fox-Potter can be contacted at: mckenzie.fox-potter@usda.gov or by calling (906) 428-5853.



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Anishinaabemowin 2024

The voice of nature is always encouraging. Be still and listen. Then join your voice to the great chorus of life and land. Maybe use some Anishinaabemowin words you might know. (*You could ask us for words you need.*)

Minowaanigozi-daa maampii Shkakimigkwe-ing!

Let's be joyful and in good spirits here on Mother Earth! (Joy to the World)

Kina giizhigoong miinwaa kina gidkamik nagamowag!

All in the heavens and all on the earth are singing! (Let heaven and nature sing)

Ko-gkendaan: for as far back as we know **Nangwa ge:** today also

G'nagamami. We sing.

G'midweyaabiigbijigemi

G'dewegemi. We drum.

We play guitar.

G'bibigwemi. We play the flute.

G'naazhaabii'igemi

We play fiddle.

Zhiishiigwan g'nakaazami.

G'madwewechigemi.

We use rattles.

We play piano.



aandek



baakaakwenh



gaazhag



zhiishiib



waabiganoojiinh

Nowewin says 'a way of speaking' — the way we sound, or our language. The voices of our animal brothers and sisters are spoken of as nowewinan — to acknowledge that they are speaking something meaningful to someone. The action form of that word is "nowe." So today we'll use it as below.

Wenesh ___ e-nowed? What sound does a ___ make?

example **Wenesh makwa e-nowed?** **Grrrr kida.**

What sound does a bear make? Grrrr, it says.

Write the sound each of these animals makes.

Wenesh aandek e-nowed? _____ kida.

Wenesh waabiganoojiinh e-nowed? _____ kida.

Wenesh bezhigoogzhii e-nowed? _____ kida.

Wenesh zhiishiib e-nowed? _____ kida.

Wenesh gaazhag e-nowed? _____ kida.

Wenesh maa'iingan e-nowed? _____ kida.

Wenesh gookookoo e-nowed? _____ kida.

Wenesh naabese e-nowed? _____ kida.

Wenesh nimosh e-nowed? _____ kida.

Wenesh baakaakwenh e-nowed? _____ kida.

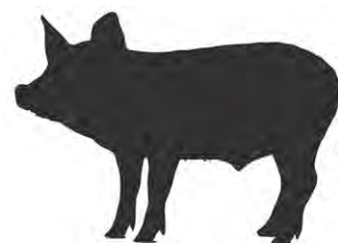
Wenesh gookoosh e-nowed? _____ kida.



bezhigoogzhii



gookookoo



gookosh



naabese



nimosh



maa'iingan

ANIMAL SILHOUETTES FROM [HTTPS://WWW.VECTEEZY.COM](https://www.vecteezy.com).

Fun Fact: Humans are the only known beings that speak or sing for themselves. The rest of the animal world only speaks to convey information to others.

Aambe, baapin! (Come on, laugh!)

I love deadlines. I like the whooshing sound they make as they fly by.

— Douglas Adams

What did the drummer name his twin girls? *Anna 1, Anna 2*

If pronouncing my Bs as Vs makes me sound Russian, then Soviet.

What do sheep dogs say? *They baaaaaaaaaark.*

I really like animal puns. I know it sounds weird but just bear with me.

Why not ask horses for feedback? *They're all neigh-sayers.*

What is a vegan's favorite Christmas Carol? *Soy to the World.*

Pronunciation?? You'll find the Anishinaabemowin words used here as well as those in the calendar, pronounced at our FaceBook link:
www.facebook.com/SaultTribeLanguageAndCulture.
 You can also use the guide shown below!

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

aa sounds like the a in <i>awesome</i>	a sounds like the a in <i>about</i>
ii sounds like the e in <i>be</i>	i sounds like the i in <i>dip</i>
oo sounds like the o in <i>go</i>	o sounds like the oo's in <i>book</i>
e sounds like the e in <i>Ed</i>	g sounds only like it does in <i>go</i>

We underlined the syllables that get the emphasis.
 Pronounce all the letters. Big deal: 'nh' in a word has no sound! It's only a sign to say the previous vowel nasally - as if you have a stuffed-up nose!

Housing Authority completes construction of 40 housing units; apartment complex on its way

SUBMITTED BY SAULT TRIBE HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Sault Tribe Housing Authority (STHA) has successfully completed the construction of 40 housing units in the Grand Block Grant - Community Funding results in a 2% increase in the total housing stock. Through the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the dedication and collaboration demonstrated by the team were commendable.



These units will qualify as low to moderate-income families. Additionally, the Sault Tribe Board Director authorized \$3 million toward the apartment complex in reassigning the money.

The apartment complex will consist of a two-story building featuring 80 units and two two-bedroom units.

The engineering/architect firm has been hired and floor plans and specifications are underway. The actual construction is approximately two years to complete.

The project aims to alleviate the housing crisis by providing affordable housing in a fair market. It is a priority to secure housing for tribal members with the ability to secure housing on the large site for the Sault Ste. Marie

Trib of Chippewa. The main reason for this is a critical responsibility of STHA, as it plays a vital role in ensuring safe and affordable living conditions for our tribal members. In December 2024, STHA received official notification of an allocation of \$3 million in Indian Community Development Block Grant funds. These funds will be used to replace the old, deteriorated facilities that can no longer support the needs of the community. This funding is especially timely as we face winter's demands and the pressing need for housing for the members in our service area while being in a period of economic challenges. All team members' efforts in supporting these projects are appreciated.

STHA recently executed interagency agreements with the tribe to construct, manage and operate affordable housing with the Department of Treasury ARPA funds designated for Units 2, 3 and 5. A quad-plex will be constructed in Newberry and a duplex will be constructed in Hessel along with home rehabilitation for eligible home owners in Unit 2. Thus far, plans are underway to place six tiny homes on the Wetmore housing site in Unit 5. Depending

on the cost of this project, other housing initiatives will be pursued in this unit. Finally, STHA staff have been meeting with the board members from Unit 3 to develop the conceptual plans for a housing community at the Savard property

in St. Ignace. This is a vacant parcel of land that needs water/sewer, roads, and utilities. Depending on the cost of developing the land, the intent is to add housing as well. STHA is excited about the housing projects in the work.

Gerard Sagassige

2025 January Healer clinic

hours

<p>January 6,7,13,14,20,21,27,28 Sault Ste. Marie Health Center (906)632-0236</p>	<p>Wednesday, January 15th Manistique Health Center (906)341-8469 or (866) 401-0043</p>
<p>Wednesday, January 22nd Munising Health Center (906)387-4721 or (800)236-4705</p>	<p>Wednesday, January 29th Hessel Community Center (906)484-2727</p>

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

MANIDOO GIIZIS - SPIRIT MOON - JANUARY 2025

NIIZHWAASO GIIZHIGAT	NTAM GIIZHIGAT	NIIZHO GIIZHIGAT	NSWO GIIZHIGAT	NIIWO GIIZHIGAT	NAANO GIIZHIGAT	NGODWAASWO GIIZHIGAT
	 shki bboon (new year)	<i>Mino Nimkodaading (Happy New Year!)</i>	 Nimkaage. (S/he greets by waving)	 Jaachaama. (S/he is sneezing.)	 Sosdam. (S/he is coughing.)	 gziinjaane'gan (kleenex/tissue)
 gawaan'gamik (spearing shack)	 wewebinaabii (S/he is ice fishing)	 bkindaagan (fur pelt)	 Biziingwepo. (There is blinding snow.)	 Shpaagonagaa. (The snow is deep.)	 baataawaagneshin (to be stuck in the snow)	 E-piichiksinaa? (How cold is it?)
 naabkawaagan (scarf)	 Mooshkaneshin Dibiki Giizis (It is a full moon.)	 mjigawanak (mittens)	 goonibaakwat (snowball)	 gidagoon bembizod (snowmobile [thing that drives on snow])	 gidaagoon bimibzoschige (S/he is snowmobiling.)	 mitigwaaking (forest)
 mooz (moose)	 Zhooshkwaade. (S/he is ice skating)	 baapaashkaakji (trees make cracking sounds from the cold)	 goonigne bik (snow snake)	 bootsinan (boots)	 Aagamaase. (S/he is walking on snowshoes.)	 waagosh (fox)
 goonenhsag (snowflakes)	 zhiing-waak (pine tree)	 zgataagan (tinder)	 n'wijiiki'enh (my friend)	 Naabadin. (The snow is crusted.)	 gii'zhoopzan (dress warm)	

Sault Tribe Law Enforcement and Conservation

BY CHIEF OF POLICE ROBERT MARCHAND

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, Fishing, and Gathering

Applications for bear and elk will be in the April newspaper and will be available in our office May 1 – May 31, 2025.

If you currently hold a 2024 license, your harvest report is due Feb 1, 2025.

2025 Inland Applications will be available March 1, 2025 in office and online, they will also be in the February 2025 newspaper. Please use the most up to date application, things can change and we hate to send your application back because it is wrong or missing information.

As always, our office does not accept cash; we do accept checks, money order or debit/credit if you are standing at our window.

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. Keep in mind that anyone born after 1960 is required to take hunters safety. STLE does administer a youth mentoring program that members under the age of 10 are able to participate in for a maximum period of two years; please note however that once the youth turns 10, they are not eligible for this program and will be required to provide proof of hunter safety. STLE recommends



that they begin participation at eight years of age so there is no lapse in licensing. Please contact our office for more information as there are other requirements to participate and special applications that must be filled out.

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. All tribal codes may be found online at saulttribe.com, select government at the top, select tribal code from the drop-down list and choose Chapter 21 for Inland rules and regulations.

Sault Tribe's early deer season is over and ran until Oct. 31, 2024, during this time you were authorized to harvest only two of the five deer tags you received, one of which may be antlered.

Quiet time is also over; during quiet time you are authorized to use a bow and arrow and/or crossbow, but cannot use a firearm. Late deer season started Nov. 15 where you are able to harvest your remaining tags, and goes through the first full

weekend in January, ending on Sunday, January 5, 2025.

Sault Tribe's small game season started September 1, 2024 and runs through March 31, 2025. Migratory bird season has been going, the only seasons still going are ducks (except teal) and geese that will end December 31, 2024; STLE have received the regulations that include seasons and bag limits from the Natural Resource Department. These are available online or at STLE's office in the Sault.

Great Lakes Fishing – Subsistence/Netting and Commercial

Commercial licenses – captains and helpers – are still required to schedule an appointment 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. 2024 Captains and Helpers licenses expire Dec. 31, 2024. You are able to call our office the last two weeks of December to schedule an appointment to get your 2025 license.

Captains who have not paid their 2024 licenses will be receiving a letter if you haven't already. If you are unsure, please call our office as soon as possible. Also, a friendly reminder that all captains who are issued a license are required to report every second and fourth Wednesday of the month on the CORA site.

2024 Subsistence and/or Netting licenses also expire Dec. 31, 2024. You are able to request the 2025 packet the last two weeks of December so that there is no lapse in your license. If you hold one or both of these licenses, please remember that you are required to turn in a

monthly catch report by the 10th of each month. These reports are required regardless of harvest or effort. If you fax in your reports, please make sure to call STLE about 10-15 minutes after you faxed it to ensure we received it.

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 and netting licenses. Both sets of regulations may be found online at saulttribe.com, select government at the top, select tribal code from the drop-down list, and choose either Chapter 20 or CORA code for Great Lakes rules and regulations.

If you are not fishing with your subsistence or subsistence netting license and do not want to have to turn in the required monthly reports, you are able to turn in your license(s) with a final catch report at any time. If during that licensing year you want to start fishing again, you can either pick up your license at STLE or call and we can mail it to you. If you choose to turn in your license for a period of time, during that time you are not authorized to fish under the

licenses' rules until you have your license in your possession. If you are issued a ticket, you are still required to turn in the catch report that you received a ticket for. We have had many issues with this, please read through rules and regulations so that you fully understand what is required of these licenses as it is your responsibility to know all rules/regulations.

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

Members are encouraged to 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.

As we move into the New Year, Sault Tribe Law Enforcement and staff would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very happy and healthy New Year!

January is National Radon Action Month

FROM SAULT TRIBE ENVIRONMENTAL

January is National Radon Action Month. One in four homes in Michigan have unsafe radon levels and radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer.

Self-tests are easy and free (for tribal members in the seven-county service area).

You can pick up a radon test kit up at the Sault Tribe Environmental office at 206 Greenough St. in Sault Ste Marie.

For more information or to have a test kit sent to a different Sault Tribe office, contact the Environmental Specialist for Air Quality Pierce Mayville at (906) 632-5575, ext. 73063, or pmayville@saulttribe.net.

Sign up for your digital subscription today!

Win Awena Nisitong is offering a digital subscription to its bi-monthly tribal membership. The bi-monthly is a full PDF of the printed newspaper. Members who for the bi-monthly will receive a notification and link when the current paper is available, and will no longer receive the printed paper. They can read their paper online, or have it delivered. Anyone can view the bi-monthly subscription at www.saulttribe.com/news/saulttribe-news. But they will receive a notification and link to the most recent issue.

Members, to arrive in mailbox. The interested in a digital subscription can email Sherrice Laas at slaas@saulttribe.net to

sign up. Digital subscriptions must keep their email address private, or they will lose their subscription.

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Participate in ITCMI's virtual talking circle

You are invited to participate in a virtual talking circle taking place in February to support further development and use of the Gigiigoo'inaan "Our Fish" App.

You can download the our fish app using the QR code above right.

Or find the app here: <https://bit.ly/m/FishApp>.

See QR code on the far right to sign up for the talking circle.

The Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan (ITCMI), in collaboration with The Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) and Anishinaabe community members from the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority (CORA)

1836 Treaty fishing tribes, released the Gigiigoo'inaan application, a user-friendly app available on iPhones and Androids.

The app serves as a guide for making informed fish consumption choices within the Great Lakes and Bemidji Region.

ITCMI is going to host a virtual talking circle in February 2024, to understand how the app is being used, and how it can help its users. Participants will be compensated with a \$50 gift card for their time, scan the QR below to register as a participant.



Fish are more than just a healthy food source for the Anishinaabe. Cherished fishing traditions are threatened by environmental risks.

The Gigiigoo'inaan App provides personalized recommendations for safe fish consumption, factoring in users' age, weight, portion size, and the waterway where the fish came from. This work is significant because it addresses the need for effective fish consumption advice for the Anishinaabe whose tribal governments oversee treaty-related natural resource

practices in Northern Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota.

This study will help guide future programs and educational resources in the community and is part of a 5-year project

which develops culturally tailored advice to promote the consumption of low-contaminated species of fish among Anishinaabe peoples and waterways.

Register for the virtual talking circle

Scan the QR code above to register for the virtual talking circle. You will receive an e-mail



with a special code specific to your e-mail address to take part in the virtual talking circle. We would like 15 participants from each CORA tribe. The survey will close when we have 15 confirmed

tribal member participants. Please check your mail for a message from fishappcoordinator@itcmi.org.

You can also register online by going here: <https://bit.ly/saulttalkingcircle>

For more information, see <https://www.1836cora.org/>.

MSU researcher receives grant to develop efficient irrigation technology using solar power

BY CAMERON RUDOLPH, MSU EXTENSION

EAST LANSING, Mich. — A Michigan State University researcher has received a \$394,600 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service to develop a solar power-based irrigation technology that improves energy- and water-use efficiency.

Younsuk Dong, an assistant professor in the MSU Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering, leads the three-year project.

Agriculture is responsible for more than 80% of all water consumption in the U.S., according to USDA's Economic Research Service. A report from the U.S. Geological Survey indicates that irrigation alone accounts for roughly 42% of water use.

Dong said that while irrigation is an essential tool, it must be deployed efficiently. Over-irrigation, in particular, can cause a multitude of unintended consequences, such as unneeded expenses on energy and water, as well as increasing disease activity.

According to the Michigan Farm Energy Audit Program, irrigation operations consume 95% of the electricity used on an irrigated Michigan farm. USDA's 2019 Census of

"Sharing this information as widely as possible to encourage these practices that are cost-effective and accessible will help a variety of farmers and crop systems moving forward."

Agriculture showed that energy expenses for irrigation pumps exceeded \$2.4 billion.

To make farming more sustainable for growers and the environment, an increased emphasis has been placed on research generating technologies that save on input costs and resource use.

"Some electric utilities have deactivated coal-powered plants to fight climate change, which has caused a reduction in power capacity and reserve availability despite the push toward renewable energy," Dong said. "About 85% of Michigan farms are on single-phase electrical networks, which limit the size of motors you can have connected to the network. Irrigation requires large motors, so if we can make these motors more efficient and reduce stress on the grid, we can increase sustainability of the operations."

Dong is an expert in accessible irrigation technology development, having already created and field tested the Low-Cost Monitoring System (LOCOMOS). LOCOMOS significantly lowers the initial cost of in-field irrigation sensors and

is usable with a smartphone app.

The sensors collect data on soil moisture, leaf wetness and other environmental conditions, which is then analyzed by software that sends growers precise irrigation recommendations.

For the new project, Dong and Woongkul (Matt) Lee, an assistant professor at Purdue University who was previously at MSU, are designing a solar-powered microinverter. The small device is connected to a solar panel and allows electricity to be used for tasks such as soft-starting induction motors for irrigation or sent back to the grid for energy credits.

LOCOMOS was developed to make irrigation more efficient by taking into account environmental conditions. The new project will add an energy-savings component.

The microinverters will be connected with irrigation sensors via the Internet of Things — a system that promotes the exchange of data throughout a network — to increase efficiency of grid-connected irrigation.

"The cost of the solar panel and microinverter are continually decreasing," Lee said. "The

energy savings can be significant, and there are tax benefits to the solar panels as well. We think this could be a viable, cost-effective solution for many Michigan and Indiana farms and beyond."

The first objective involves scaling up a working solar-powered microinverter prototype that has already been manufactured and tested in the lab. The system will be installed for a year-long test at MSU research farms.

For the second objective, in the project's second and third years, on-farm research will be conducted at partner farms in Michigan and Indiana. Some fields will be fitted with solar-powered microinverters, while others will serve as controls without the technology.

Researchers will collaborate with utility companies in Michigan and Indiana to connect the microinverters to the grid, a process that will be assisted by Truman Surbrook, a professor in the MSU Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering.

The team will evaluate energy-use efficiency and irrigation scheduling effectiveness of the system. They will also estimate cost savings from less overall and peak-time power usage. Using this information, a more

refined prototype will be developed and tested in the third year of the project.

For the third objective, a decision support tool that considers in-field conditions, crop type, irrigation pump size and more will be created. Feedback from users will be continually collected, helping researchers optimize the system's performance.

Finally, outreach will play a significant role, including presenting at conferences, conducting webinars, creating extension bulletins and fact sheets, and interacting directly with farmers.

"Along with farmers we're working with directly, the industries and commodity groups will be important partners in this effort," Dong said. "Sharing this information as widely as possible to encourage these practices that are cost-effective and accessible will help a variety of farmers and crop systems moving forward."

The new project builds on previous work supported by the MSU Office of Research and Innovation's Climate Change Research Support Program and the MSU Innovation Center's Michigan Translational Research and Commercialization AgBio Starter and Full Awards.

2025 Black Lake Sturgeon Lottery Application

Sault Tribe has an allocation for one lake sturgeon in Black Lake in Cheboygan County in 2025. Please fill out the following application and return to Sault Tribe Natural Resource Department at: 916 Ashmun Ave, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. Application must be received by 5:00 pm on January 15th, 2025. **Applications received after 5:00pm on January 15th, 2025 WILL NOT be accepted.** One entry per applicant.

First Name Middle Name Last Name

Address City State Zipcode

File Number (Red # on tribal ID) STS #

Date of Birth Sex Phone Number Email

Walking on...

ALVA IONE (NELSON) BRUN

Alva Brun passed away at The Maples in Frankfort, Mich., in the loving presence of her family on Nov. 2, 2024. Alva was 95-years-old, born on Aug. 25, 1929 in Royal Oak Mich. She was the second



child of Edna and Paul Nelson and the eldest daughter of eight.

Although of mixed heritage Swedish, Irish, French, and German, Alva was a proud citizen of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Alva took the time to make sure her children as well as her nieces and nephews knew the names of their ancestors and their connection to the land around the Rexton and Epoufette area of the Upper Peninsula.

Alva told many stories about surviving the cold and snow when living in log cabins at lumber camps in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Her family moved to a vibrant Detroit city and Alva graduated from the High School of Commerce in Detroit and worked as a secretary. Alva had a love of fancy clothes when she was young which stayed with her into her later years. Her granddaughters took advantage of her willingness to intervene when trying to get stylish yet impractical clothes past a parent.

Alva showed great strength and perseverance after the passing of her first husband, Emerick Witkowski, and received a bachelor's degree at Eastern Michigan University. She became an elementary school teacher in the Waterford School system and taught primarily first grade until she retired. Alva was an active member of the Michigan Education Association and wholeheartedly participated as a representative and leader of Indian Education programs. Alva was also a very active member of the Michigan Democratic party advocating for equal rights and legislation that benefits all. She was an avid reader and frequented libraries and bookstores. Alva volunteered at the Benzie Shores Library because she greatly appreciated and supported having books available to all.

Alva was an award-winning artist and drew and painted mostly because she enjoyed it. Alva was especially talented with watercolors and pen and ink. She enjoyed open art day and classes at Paul Oliver Art Center and was a member for life. Her humility was evident as she finished a painting because she could always find a flaw and sometimes had to be convinced it was done and awesome.

Alva was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Douglas Kuechle with whom she shared a wonderful life in their later years and retirement. Alva and Doug were gracious hosts and shared their home, excellent food, and good times with the many friends and family who were fortunate enough to travel "up north" to visit with them.

Alva was also preceded in death by her first husband and the father of her children, Emerick

Witkowski; her son Dennis Witkowski; her parents Paul Nelson and Edna (nee Mellon) Nelson; and siblings Leroy Nelson (Joyce), Joyce Cardwell (Bill), Marion Smith (Bill), Bruce Nelson (Melinda) and Jack Nelson (Nancy).

Alva is survived by her youngest siblings Sandra Schuman (Dick) and James Nelson (Amy); Alva's children: James Witkowski (Julie), Kathleen Witkowski (Karen) and Thomas Witkowski (Sheila); her grandchildren and great grandchildren for whom she had great fondness and affection: Emerick Witkowski (Lilliana) Khara Witkowski, Taylor Witkowski Pruitt (Mark), Elisabeth Witkowski (Brian), Jessica Witkowski, Joselynn Payment, Emmalee Alexander, Maddison May, Madison Sky, Tyler, Ella, Lilly and Bradan. Although Alva married Doug Kuechle later in life she embraced his children and grandchildren as family and they include: Chris Kuechle (Fran White), Kate Fogg (Tim) and grandchildren Matt Kuechle, Brian Kuechle, Jacob Fogg and their children.

Alva was a proud aunt to her many nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews. She always enjoyed a phone call and especially a visit to share stories and genealogy. Alva valued family and friends and wrote everyone's name in her phone book along with their birthday if she knew it.

Alva's taught us that we are all important, unique and should show respect, love, and care in our connections and relationships with each other. It meant a lot to Alva to share a meal, give and get a hug, meet for coffee or hot chocolate, take a walk, share and listen to each other's stories. She enjoyed laughing, dancing and singing with anyone who would join in. Let us continue her legacy by engaging in these good ways with one another as a way to honor each other, Alva, and those ancestors who have gone on before us.

Alva's family is grateful beyond measure for all the staff at the Maples and the residents with whom she lived with the last two years. You all gave her such kindness, care and laughs on a daily basis. You became family. Also, thanks to the staff of the care team: In Home and Hospice who provided Alva care at home and at the Maples. Special thanks to the staff at Benzie Senior Resources for the support and care you provide for elders and family in their homes. Alva's immediate family would also like to thank their cousin Debbie Dropping for her support over the years right up to those last moments.

Alva will be greatly missed but her light and power will be with us always.

Chi miigwetch Bimaadiziwin Chi Aandeg Kwe (thanks for the good life Big Crow Woman).

Baamaa pii miinwaa kaawaa-bamin, Alva (we'll see you again).

ROSANN (DAKE) BROWN

Longtime Newberry, Mich., resident, Rosann (Dake) Brown, 97, died Saturday morning Dec.

7, 2024 at Evergreen Living Center in St. Ignace, Mich.

Born Sept. 4, 1927 in Newberry, daughter of the late Neil and Rose (LaBlance) Dake, Rosann was a graduate of Newberry High School and graduate of St. Anthony's Nursing School receiving a degree as a registered nurse.

She was formerly employed as a RN at the Tahquamenon General Hospital and later at the Newberry Regional Mental Health Center for several years until her retirement in 1982.

Rosann was a member and elder of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, EMT for the Luce County Ambulance Corp. and volunteer for the American Red Cross. A member of St. Gregory's Catholic Church, she also attended the First Presbyterian Church. Rosann enjoyed gardening, watching the Green Bay Packers and spending time with her grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, Rosann is preceded in death by her husband L.D. Brown on May 25, 2007, son John Jago and grandson Micheal Jago II.

Survivors include her children Micheal (Rebecca) Jago of Newberry, Cathy (Joe) LaBlance of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Suzanne Jago of Sault Ste. Marie, Kenneth Jago of Newberry and Clyde (Jan) Jago of Superior, Wisc.; 14 grandchildren, 30 great-grandchildren and 18 great-great-grandchildren.

A gathering of family and friends will take place Friday May 16, 2025 from noon until 1 p.m. at St. Gregory's Catholic Church in Newberry. A memorial mass will follow at 1 p.m. at the church with Fr. Jacek Wtyklo officiating. Rite of committal will take place at the Forest Home Cemetery.

Memorials may be directed to St. Gregory's Catholic Church or the First Presbyterian Church in her loving memory.

Condolences may be expressed at www.beaulieufuneralhome.com Beaulieu Funeral Home in Newberry is assisting the family.

JODY THOMAS GASKIN

Jody Thomas Gaskin "Maang Ogimaw," Loon Chief, born on Dec. 29, 1963, in Sault Ste Marie, Mich., left this world on Nov. 11, 2024, in Winnipeg, Manitoba, leaving behind a legacy of love, music, and cherished memories.

Jody was met on the other side of the river by his mother Rosemary Gaskin, his sister Beulah Gaskin, and his twin brother John Gaskin. He leaves his sister Lauri Gaskin and brother David Gaskin behind as well as the love of his life Sylvia Wastasecoot and his children, Amber Belonga (Chris),



Ashley Marra (Curtis), Jordan Gaskin (Trisha), Carrie Gaskin (Dave), Andre Neebnagezhick, Emmy Sky-Gaskin, Dakota Sky-Gaskin, Sebastian Gaskin, Dustin Meshigaud (Tessa) and Geezik McCoy- Sayers. Jody was a proud grandfather to Jaylen, Wynter, Anthony, Brent, Gracie, Mason, Jett, Landon, Silas, Scarlett, Allie, Carson, Dextin and Xavier and an even prouder great grandfather to Lilly. He also leaves behind countless nieces, nephews and cousins.

Jody's life was a beautiful melody, filled with the joy of music and the rhythm of love. As a performer, he sang and danced his way into the hearts of many, leaving an indelible mark on the world with his talent and passion. Jody's love for music led him to produce his own music, and his dedication and artistry earned him nominations for several music awards. His music will continue to resonate in the hearts of those who were touched by his soulful melodies.

Beyond his musical accomplishments, Jody's greatest joy came from being a father and "misho." He loved every one of his children. He was always traveling but always made sure to tell his children he loved them. His love extended to his grandchildren, whom he cherished and adored with every fiber of his being.

Beyond his artistic pursuits, Jody was a proud Anishinaabe who stood up for his people and took great pride in sharing his knowledge and traditions. He was a sun dancer, pipe carrier, and knowledge keeper for the Anishinaabe people, embodying the values and teachings of his culture with grace and dedication. His commitment to preserving and passing on the traditions of his people was unwavering, and his impact on the community was immeasurable.

Jody was also a champion powwow dancer and hoop dancer, showcasing his talent and dedication to his cultural heritage. His presence at these events brought joy and inspiration to those around him, and his legacy as a cultural ambassador will endure for generations to come.

Jody's spirit and strength were a testament to his lineage, as he came from a long line of resilient and courageous individuals. He was a true warrior, a badass from a long line of bad-asses, and his legacy will continue to inspire and uplift those who follow in his footsteps.

In honoring Jody's life, a ceremony was held at the Niigaanagizhik Ceremonial Building in Sault Ste. Marie, where family, friends, and loved ones came together to celebrate his life, share memories, and find solace in each other's presence.

Jody's departure from this world has left a profound void, but his spirit will continue to shine brightly through the memories and love he shared with all who knew him. His laughter, his music, and his unwavering love will forever echo in the hearts of those he touched.

May his soul find peace, and may his memory be a source of comfort and strength to all who

mourn his passing. Jody Thomas Gaskin will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

JACOB EDWARD MOSES

Jacob "Jake" Edward Moses, 70, of Engadine, Mich., died Friday morning Nov. 8, 2024 at his residence in the presence of his loving family and the care of North Woods Hospice.

Born Oct. 18, 1954 in Sault Ste.

Marie, Mich., son of the late Jonas and Helen (Calkins) Moses, Jake enlisted into the United States Army on Sept. 1, 1976 serving overseas in Germany until his honorable discharge on Aug. 31, 1979, attaining the rank of specialist fourth class.

Jake was formerly employed at Louisiana-Pacific Corp., ZD Metal and later at Franklin Metal in Lake Odessa as a welding supervisor until his retirement.

Jake was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, enjoyed rock picking on Lake Superior and spending time with his family. Jake's family was his world, and he loved his children, his grandchildren with every fiber of his being and his great-grandson, Barret Jacob Selby, who was affectionately referred to as "Grandpa's Little Man." He was a friend to all and would help anyone.

In addition to his parents, Jake is preceded in death by his sister Darlene Caswell and nephews Jeffrey Caswell and Joseph Moses.

Survivors include his love of his life, the former Diane Selby, of Engadine; children Jake (Leona) Taylor of Grand Rapids, David (Melissa) Selby of Portland, Nichole Marie Moses of Grand Rapids and Cassie Lynn Moses of Engadine; grandchildren Skyler (Rachel) Selby of Portland, Jordan (Allie) Selby of Charlotte, Micheal Jacob Banhagel of Ionia and Malia Taylor of Grand Rapids; great-grandson Barret Jacob Selby of Portland; siblings Matt (Curlene) Moses of Donnelly, Idaho and Ernie (Sue) Moses of Newberry; sister-in-law Kathy (Guy) Ackley, brothers-in-law George (Vaughn) Selby of Leslie, Robert (Kathy) Selby of Leslie, Curnell Selby of Saginaw and Merlin Selby; favorite cousin Gail Holbrook of Newberry and special cousin Pam (Frank) Lesatz of Engadine; several nieces, nephews and heart sister, Joby Ann Pastell of Curtis.

Per request, cremation services were accorded. A private service for family and close friends was held Nov. 10, at the Beaulieu Funeral Home in Newberry.

Memorial contributions may be made to States Savings Bank in Curtis, in care of Diane Moses, to help with the final arrangements.

See "Walking on," page 11



Walking on continued from page 10

JUDITH LYNN (ADAMS) BENTON

Judith Lynn (Adams) Benton, died Nov. 22, 2024 at the age of 77. She was born on Jan. 18, 1947 in Cheboygan, Mich. The daughter of George L. Adams and Bernadette (Cadieux) Adams, she married Gerald D. Benton Sr. on May 23, 1970 in Lansing, Mich. Later, moving back to her hometown of Cheboygan.



Judy started her career working part-time with her mother as a cook at the Cheboygan Area High School. She later worked full-time at Black River School as a cook, working there for 25 years until the school closed. After the closing of Black River, she transferred to West Elementary where after working another 10 years before retiring. Judy also worked summer months at Camp Walden and the University of Michigan Biological Camp (Bug Camp). Judy worked in the food service industry for 35 years, feeding thousands of children in the Cheboygan area. Judy's passion for cooking was something everyone loved about her. She never wanted to see a child hungry, always asking them if they wanted seconds. Judy enjoyed attending school sporting events along with going to bingo, in her spare time.

She is preceded in death by her parents, George and Bernadette; brothers George (Butch) and Fred (Babe) Adams and several aunts and uncles.

She is survived by her husband of 54 years, Gerald D. Benton Sr.; her children; son, Gerald (JD) D. Benton II, daughters, Jodi (Gerald Jr.) Boardman, Jan (Jonathan) Rupp, and step-daughter Kelly Benton; two aunts, Faye Johnson and Phyllis LaRocque; grandchildren; Nicholas, Gerald (Jerry) III, Alexandra (Lexie), Tyler, Zachary, Cloee, Kacy, Ashley, and Miranda; along with several great-grandchildren and cousins; and her faithful companion dog, Moose.

Judy was a proud member and elder of the Sault Ste Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Inurnment will be at Calvary Catholic Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers or donations, please consider supporting the Cheboygan Sports Boosters in her memory.

MARK A. LEASK

Mark A. Leask, 61, passed away suddenly at his home in Barbeau, Mich., on Sunday, Nov. 17, 2024. He was born on Sept. 3, 1963, to Edward Paul "Chum" and Shirley Ann (Scales) Leask, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.



After graduating high school, Mark followed his father and brother David's footsteps enlisting in the United States Army National Guard, where he was

a heavy equipment mechanic. He served his country for 20 years retiring as a Sargent. Mark deployed to Dessert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom during those 20 years.

Mark was a member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, the local VFW Post #3676 and American Legion Post #3.

Mark was very instrumental in teaching his nephews how to hunt and fish. This was one of his great passions, along with bragging about his grandson, Ethan. Mark enjoyed spending time with his family and close friends. He welcomed visitors to his home and always made sure he had something to offer them.

Mark leaves behind his only daughter, Jodi (Tony) Carey; grandson, Ethan Michalski, whom he would do anything for. His brothers, Mike (Connie) Leask, Joe Leask; sister, Linda Turner (Jim Bogey), and Angie Leask; stepson, Chris (Nicole) Goetz; stepdaughter, Ashleigh Loonsfoot; stepdaughter, Debbie (Allen) Sauro; and girlfriend, Carey Synett. He also leaves behind numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins whom he loved dearly.

Mark was proceeded in death by his wife, Melanie Nolan; granddaughter, London Carey; parents, Edward "Chum" and Shirley Leask; brother, David Leask; and sisters, Cheryl (Leask) Ordiway, Sharon (Leask) Oraziotti.

Visitation was held on Friday, Nov. 22, 2024, at Holy Family Catholic Church in Barbeau. The mass of christian burial followed. His final resting place will be the Holy Family Cemetery located on 15 Mile and M-129.

Memorial donations can be made to Jodi to help cover funeral expenses.

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

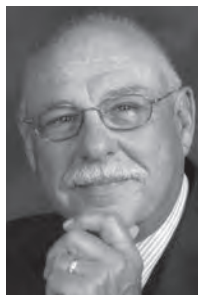
ALVIN GAIL PICOTTE

Alvin Gail Picotte passed peacefully on Sept. 5, 2024, at Ball Hospice House.

Al was born June 27, 1941, to Alvin Edward Picotte and Vylla Grace (Schuk) Picotte just as the noon whistle blew. He's been raising ruckus ever since!

Al grew up on the Cheyenne River Reservation in South Dakota and was proud of his Yankton Sioux heritage. He was an avid basketball player. The kids on the rez wouldn't pass him the ball because he had blue eyes. None the less he became a star forward and played in state championship games. Go Battlers!

Al graduated from Gettysburg High School, Northern State University in Aberdeen, S.D., received his master's from the University of Minnesota, and his education specialist degree from Central Michigan University. He moved to Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., to be superintendent of the



Michigan branch of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, where he was instrumental in securing Indian treaty rights. He later joined Sault Ste. Marie Area Public Schools and retired from there. He said the most fun job he ever had was teaching civics at Sault High School.

Al was an avid golfer, and once had a hole-in-one on the sixth hole at Sault Ste. Marie Country Club. He was a fisherman and hunter – his trophy bucks decorate the family room.

Al was a faithful member of Faith Lutheran Church for 44 years. His beautiful baritone enriched many services, he was an enthusiastic member of Monday Morning Gospel Singers.

Al is survived by his wife of 47 years, Dixie; sons, Charles (Michelle) Picotte of Cedarville, Mich., Douglas (Jenni) Picotte of Dripping Springs, Texas, and Allan Picotte of Rosemount, Minn.; daughters, Jane of Kinross, Mich., Tracy of California; grandchildren, Joseph (Mary) of Hessel, Mich., Victor Gordon of Kincheloe, Mich., Maddison of Kincheloe, Marshall (Bailey) of San Marcos, Texas, Libby of Dripping Springs, Texas, Briana (Max) AL Taquatqa of Farmington, Minn., Emma Rose of St. Paul, Minn.; great-grandchildren, Clare, Leland, Wade, Nora and Hunter.

A celebration of life was held at Faith Lutheran Church in Sault Ste. Marie on Sept. 13, 2024. Visitation was held at Union Cemetery in Maplewood, Minn., on Monday, Sept. 16, 2024.

Memorial contributions may be made in memory of Alvin, to Lutheran World Hunger.

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

RICHARD "R.P." KELLY PARRISH

Richard "R.P." Kelly Parrish "Manidoo Ngig or Spirit Otter" of Bay Mills, Mich., began his journey on Nov. 21, 2024. Fittingly born on April 20, 1967, in Detroit, Mich., to Robert and Irma Parrish.



In his younger years, R.P. would play Santa for the little ones around Bay Mills. Later in life, he enjoyed softball, hunting, and a good Yahtzee game. Every summer, you would find R.P. cooking up the most delicious and fluffy fry bread at the Parrish taco stand at the Honoring Our Veterans Powwow, where no one else could outdo him at the frying pan.

R.P. was a commercial fisherman for many years before he went to work for the casino. He started in Kings Club before moving to the Bay Mills Resort and Casino. Even while working at the casino, he maintained his position within Parrish Fisheries, helping his father develop unique

spins on preparing fresh fish. His last job was cooking meals for the elders of Bay Mills.

R.P.'s love and passion for cooking were evident in the new ideas and recipes he created, always appreciated by those around him. But what truly defined R.P. was his selflessness. He was the type of person who would do anything he could to help others, always putting their needs before his own. His selflessness was not just a trait but a way of life that impacted those he touched. R.P. was a great big teddy bear, protective and caring towards those he held dear.

Richard had many names: son, brother, uncle Erdy, friend, Rich, R.P., and cousin, among others. While he did not have his own children, he was never one to shy away from helping care for the kids around him. He provided an ear to anyone who needed it and was always there to help provide guidance, solicited or not, with the best intentions. His family fiercely loved him, and he holds a special spot in the hearts of all those who have known him through his 57 years.

The best memories of his life with us can never be captured in pictures. Instead, they are held captive by the moments in our hearts. R.P. left this world far too soon, as there was much yet to do, see, cook, and create more memories. We know that one thing he never lacked was heart and passion. He will live on in our thoughts, stories, and words. His legacy is not just in the memories of his loved ones but in his impact on the community through his love for the Detroit Tigers, Kesslers, cooking, his fearlessness to create new things, and an occasional 4/20 treat.

R.P. is survived by his father, Robert Parrish of Bay Mills; sister, Lynda (Jason) Pesola, of Brimley; brother, Rory Parrish of Bay Mills; his beloved imported orange feline, Mister Mister; nieces, Rachel Lyons, Tara Parrish, Brook Pesola, Lisa Burt, Neva Lyons, Delicia Sparks, Shiloh Dutcher, Evi Burt; and nephews, Eric Burt, Robert Burt, Andrew Burt, Matthew Burt, and Quentin Lyons.

Waiting to greet him at the end of his journey is his mother, Irma; brothers, Robert and Roger Parrish; sister and brother-in-law, Lori and Barry Burt; and nephew, Casey Lyons.

Services for Richard were at the Armella Parker Senior Center on Monday, Nov. 25, 2024. A traditional service was held on Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2024. Burial was at Mission Hill cemetery.

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

Mary Jane (Visnaw) Roberts

Mary Jane (Visnaw) Roberts, 69, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., died Nov. 28, 2024, at her home. She was born June 17, 1955, in Sault Ste. Marie, to Thomas and Pearl (Henderson) Visnaw. Mary grew up in Cedarville, Mich., and graduated from Cedarville High School. She traveled all over the United States,



with Florida and Nevada being her most frequent states to visit. She eventually settled in Sault Ste. Marie and started her family, while working for her mother's cab service "Ma's Cab." Mary began to work on Mackinac Island where she met her husband, Lecal Roberts. She worked on the Island for ten years as a security guard at the Grand Hotel and ran an ice cream shop for a few years and rode the drays with her husband.

Mary was a member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Mary enjoyed going to the casino and playing casino games on her tablet. She liked watching horror movies, doing cross word puzzles and word sheets, cooking and baking. She loved to travel in her younger years. Above all, Mary especially loved spending time with her grandchildren.

Mary is survived by her children, Christina Visnaw of Sault Ste. Marie, Thomas Bentrager of Marquette, Mich.; grandchildren, Myaha Starnes, Landyn Bebee, Tyler (Kassandra), Theodore, Takoda (Elaina), Travis Krogh, Evan, and Jacie McNamara, Tanis and Maverick Kropp; great-grandchildren, Tristin, Evander, Zayn, Killian, Edward, and two on the way; brother, Treetop Visnaw of Maryville, Tenn.; and several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins who will all miss her dearly.

Mary was preceded in death by her husband, Lecal Roberts; grandson, Tristan Visnaw; parents, Thomas and Pearl; and siblings, Peggy Ringuette and Thomas Visnaw.

A visitation was held Dec. 3, 2024, at the Niigaanagizhik Building Ceremonial Building in Sault Ste. Marie, with pipe service following. A traditional service was held Dec. 4, 2024.

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

JAMES EDWARD ST. ONGE

James Edward St. Onge "Tonto", 80, of St. Ignace, Mich., died Dec. 5, 2024, at the Evergreen Living Center in St. Ignace. He was born Oct. 19, 1944, in St. Ignace to



Edward and Beatrice (Biermaker) St. Onge.

James grew up in St. Ignace and attended LaSalle High School. After high school graduation, he began cooking at the Flame Restaurant, then Starline Boats. Later he drove for a moving company and did carpentry work before starting his career

See "Walking on," page 12

Sault Ste. Marie Elder Center celebrates birthdays



Photo by Katie Peabody

December elder birthdays, L-R: Frank Marble, Harold Hilborn II, Jolene Nertoli and Bob Lawrence.

Raynee Gillett takes 8-pointer



Tribal member Raynee Gillett, 13, of Sault Ste. Marie recently harvested this 8-point buck. Raynee is the daughter of Ray and Britnee Gillett, and granddaughter of Tim and Jinny (Gervais) Gillett and Terry and Teri Ellis, all of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

Walking on continued

From "Walking on," page 11 at Griffin Beverage Distributors in the 1980's and retired after 25 years. He was also a bouncer at Nicolet for years.

James was a lifetime member of the Moose Lodge #999 and a volunteer fireman for the St. Ignace Fire Department.

James loved working and being outside. He also enjoyed making his daily coffee rounds.

James is survived by his wife Brenda (Litzner); daughters; Donna Shipley of Paw Paw, Mich., Sue Ann St. Onge, Lana Kay St. Onge, Denise (Robert) Maxon and Cara Lee (Doug) St. Andrew all of St. Ignace; grandchildren, Brenda Boyd, Adam Boyd, Tara Burkett,

Jason and Jacob Shipley, Gavin St. Onge, Heleana St. Onge-Kissinger, Joshua St. Onge, Michael Lennington, Taylor St. Onge; many step-grandchildren; great-grandchildren, Madison Boyd, Martha Andres and Phoebe St. Andrew; brother, Oliver (Sara) St. Onge of Lawton, Mich.; sister-in-law, Nancy Kammers; and many nieces, nephews and cousins who will all miss him dearly.

James was preceded in death by his parents, Edward and Beatrice; siblings, Gertrude (Oliver) LaDuke and Reginna (Ralph) Oglesby.

A visitation was held Dec. 11, 2024, at Family Life Funeral Homes in St. Ignace. The funeral service was held following the

visitation.

James' final resting place will be at Oaklawn Chapel Gardens in Bruce Township, Mich.

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

VICTOR DAVID FARLEY JR.

Victor David Farley Jr., 63, of Kincheloe, Mich., died Monday, Nov. 25, 2024. He was born June 7, 1961, in Dayton, Ohio, to Victor and Rosemary (Comer) Farley.

Victor was born and raised in Dayton before moving to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan to help his dad commercial fish.



Zack Fallstich

Fallstich graduates from U-M

Tribal Member Zack Fallstich of Wyandotte graduated from the University of Michigan Stephen M. Ross School of Business Administration on May 3.

Zack is the son of William Fallstich and Janis Fallstich, and grandson of Mary Edward (Smith) of Mackinac Island and Clair "Ace" Edward of Dafter.

He previously earned a

juris doctor from Wayne State University Law School in 2006 and a bachelor's degree from Wayne State in 2001. Although Zack lives and works in the Detroit area, he is a Yooper at heart, having spent many summers as a kid on the Island and in the Sault. He hopes to one day return to the U.P. and perhaps work for the tribe or tribal enterprise in some capacity.

Comp study

From "Pay increase," page 1 in talent attraction and retention will be a boost for the casino operations.

"The wage increases will change the game for our tribe to provide a competitive wage in our market and ensures that we can recruit additional staff necessary to continue growing our businesses. Thank you to Sault Tribe leadership for making this happen," said Kerridge.

All pay adjustments will take effect in January 2025. Tribal employees will be contacted by Human Resources to inform them of their specific pay adjustment.

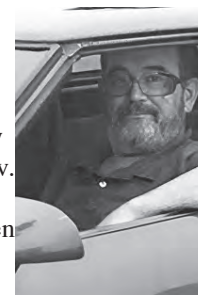
Moving ?



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

During this time, he obtained his captains license and commercial fished for 20 years in DeTour, Mich. He met Terry Curtis and they married on Nov. 3, 2014.

He had seven children of his own but was a father figure to many of his sons, Jacob and Jessy's, friends. If he wasn't fixing something the kids broke, he was remodeling cars or building go carts. He loved being outdoors, it didn't matter if he was racing, fishing, or jet skiing. He worked for AMI Industries in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., for the



last 14 years. This is where he also met his best friend Steve.

Victor is survived by his wife, Terry; children, Jacob Farley, Jessy Farley, Dylan Farley, Victor Farley III, and McKenzie Farley, all of Kincheloe, and Rosey Farley and Sunny Farley both of Escanaba, Mich.; granddaughter, Ava Farley; and siblings, Kenny Farley of Dayton, Jeanette Farley of Dayton, Victoria Farley of Las Cruis, New Mexico, and Steve Farley.

Services will be announced at a later date by family.

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

Kewadin Casinos deliver goods following Can-A-Thon drive

Another successful Can-A-Thon drive has culminated in Kewadin Casinos donating \$500 to each of five units and thou-

sands of pounds of canned and non-perishable food items.

Events Manager Alisha Woodard explained Kewadin

Casino customers could donate up to three items each day in exchange for \$5 in Kewadin credits from Nov. 1 through Nov. 30.

Those items were subsequently delivered to food pan-

tries throughout the region. Four pallets weighing well over 1,000 pounds were delivered to the Salvatiion Army in the Sault.

In Unit II, 38 cases of food were dropped off to the Cedar Pantry, while in Unit III one full

pallet was donated to the St. Ignace Hope and Food Pantry.

More than 1,200 pounds was collected in Unit IV going to St. Vincent de Paul's in Manistique, while another 850 pounds went to the Alger County Food Pantry.



Above, Robert Massaway, Judy Guillard, Charlotte Doud, Terri Hoath, Kathy Perry, Sierra Saylkes and Rick Perry in St. Ignace. Below, Amy Pollard, Mark Causely and Joe Deuparo at the Cedar Pantry.



Above, Wayne Lavigne takes in a check from Abbie Galen of the Manistique Casino. Below, the Christmas Casino donation arrives.



Full Moon Snowshoe or Hike

January 13, 2025 from 4pm-6pm

Big Bear Nature Trail

Free snowshoe rental available

Tea and a snack will be provided by Traditional Medicine and the Sault Tribe Nutritionists in the Hospitality Room at the Big Bear.

Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult

Call Sault Tribe Community Health to register @ 906-632-5210

Brought to you by Sault Tribe Community Health Education Tribal Practices for Wellness in Indian Country Project, Nutrition Services, Traditional Medicine, Big Bear Arena, and Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI). Made possible with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Patients were asked, "Should you wish, please provide any comment regarding this physician's office/clinic visit."

And you told us...

Carla Behling
Medical...She has always helped me with whatever I've needed. She's very positive and seems to be very excited about my health journey.

I love the clinic and I love Dr. Behling. She's awesome. I wouldn't want to go to anyone else.

Dr. Sherman
Medical...Everything was great and I would recommend her to anyone. I don't have any complaints at all.

I think Dr. Sherman is a great doctor. She comes from a generation that really, really cares. They care about your wellbeing and your health, and I really like that about her.

Dr. Skog
Audiology...Dr. Skog is just amazing. I would give Dr. Skog an 11 if the scale went high enough.

They do a really outstanding job. They really take the time and they're helpful. I appreciate them. I'm glad to be treated there.



SAULT TRIBAL HEALTH CENTER

Danyalle Wyckoff
Medical...Very friendly. Very attentive to what I had going on.

Rae Ann Brand
Medical...She is excellent...it's an excellent operation that they've got.

Very good service...very satisfied with the services performed by the staff!

Dr. Styer
Medical...He's a top notch doctor and he knows what he's doing.

Dr. Styer is exceptional and I'm happy with the care I receive.

Dr. Drockton
Dental...I hope he never leaves and never retires.

They're very, very helpful and very accommodating. You're treated very well there.

Dr. Johnson
Optical...Very professional and compassionate.

Dr. Obreiter
Dental...I received good care from this dentist.

They're great people, they're on top of it, and I enjoy going to the dentist.

Elders pack DreamMakers Theatre for 2024 Christmas dinner celebration



Lee and Ray Mayer snuggle before their meal arrives.



Adam Conrad and Marjorie Johanson enjoy their pre-meal coffee.



Judy Aikens with her husband Lou Aikens.



Two traditional adversaries found common ground as the Grinch and Santa Claus, Mary Sawyers and Harold Hilborn II, exchanged greetings.



Combining strength and balance, Nate Benoit and Joe McDonald delivered trays to their stations.



Diane McLeod-Maleport serving guests.



Elders got a chance to visit with friends and make new ones.



Bonnie Kemp, escorted by her husband, Gary, with leftovers.



Robert Marchand and Mike Pins, #plaiddad, dressed for the occasion.



Ogiimaa Minisino, the JKL Bahweting School drum led by Dr. Chris Gordon, played for the elder Christmas dinner on Dec. 10. The drummers include current members ranging from third to eighth grade with one alumni coming from the high school to assist with this performance.



Above, Maci Gordon and Gabby Gil danced for all five songs, below the dancers in action.



Photos by Scott Brand



Above, Tom and Brenda Cook took home the Elder of the Year Award for Unit I, while below Darlene Belleville was recognized by Dell Powers and Isaac McKechnie for her efforts in Unit III.



Margaret Ann McPherson was presented with a special blanket by Unit I Director Isaac McKechnie after she was determined to be the oldest person in attendance at the age of 97. "I will be 98 in May," said McPherson.

NMU hosts Learning to Walk Together Powwow



Grand entry at the Learning to Walk Together Powwow held on Nov. 23. The event was held at the Northern Center Grand Ballroom in Marquette and brought the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians and the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community to a central location.



The Northern Michigan University (NMU) Native American Studies Association hosted the powwow. "Having something like that in the public and people from all over allowed to attend it, I think, it opens a lot of people's eyes and just really highlights how people that are here now have that history behind them," said CEO Briggite Lapointe-Dunham of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community.



The Teal Lake Singers served as local host drum.



The host drum, Four Thunders.



Scott Steinhoff of Munising was the first spot dance winner collecting a \$10 gift certificate from Emcee Tyler Bouschor.



Frog Hill drummers in action.



Storm Cloud also performed numerous times.



Emily Witkowski and her 10-year-old daughter Freya of Gwinn, Mich., visited the beading booth where they were working on making their own necklaces. This activity proved extremely popular with visitors.



Head female dancer Chelsea Freele (center) visits with her grandmother, Marion Bouley and mother, Mary Freele.



Mato Eya Yukhe, 9, celebrates with Emcee Tyler Bouschor after winning the Traditional Woodland Native Dance Competition and \$20.



Participants in the Traditional Woodland Native Dance Competition wait on the applause of audience members to determine the winner.

Merry Christmas & HAPPY NEW YEAR

CENTRAL SAVINGS BANK

FDIC - FDIC-Insured - Backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government

Sault Tribe, Inc. announces Heckel's transition from interim to official chief executive officer

STI is pleased to announce the appointment of Rachel Heckel, MBA, PMP, as the official Chief Executive Officer, effective Oct. 1, 2024. Ms. Heckel has served as Interim CEO since April 1, 2024, successfully leading the company through a pivotal period of growth and transformation.

Since joining STI in the summer of 2022, Ms. Heckel has established the Federal government contracting presence and brand of STI Federal, built the infrastructure critical for success in this marketplace, implemented strategic initiatives that have supported expansion into multiple new Federal agencies and business lines, and increased government contracting revenue over tenfold.



Rachel Heckel

During her tenure as Interim CEO, Ms. Heckel has spearheaded strategic initiatives to align STI's resources and priorities

with STI Federal's government contracting efforts. Ms. Heckel collaborated with the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians to identify corporate board members with significant expertise in tribal government contracting and financial oversight and compliance to enhance corporate governance.

Heckel led the expansion of key departments and implementation of multiple new systems to enhance client services. She has also led the establishment of multiple new subsidiaries and capture of Federal government contracts, as well as the hiring and onboarding of several key leadership team members.

Her exceptional leadership and

vision have positioned STI for sustained success in the future.

"I am truly honored by the confidence demonstrated by our Tribal leadership and by our board's choice to entrust me with the role of official CEO at STI," Ms. Heckel stated. "I am excited to build on our momentum and work with our talented team to drive growth and create value for our customers and the tribe."

Mr. Alan Barr, President of the STI Board of Directors, shared his excitement for STI's future under Ms. Heckel's direction. "The board is confident that Ms. Heckel is the right leader to guide STI into its next chapter. She has shown unwavering commitment and has the expertise to navigate the challenges ahead."

STI is committed to strengthening the economy and enhancing quality of life for Sault Tribe members by delivering high-quality, professional services to the Federal government under the STI Federal brand. Under Ms. Heckel's leadership, the company will continue to focus on enhancing our capabilities organically and through strategic partnerships to enhance our service offerings and continue our growth in current and new agencies.

Sault Tribe, Inc. (STI) is the independent business arm of the tribe and exists to enhance the economy and improve the quality of life for tribal members, primarily through STI Federal, the tribe's government contracting division.

Make yourself a priority during this holiday season

CIARA SAINT, PREVENTION SPECIALIST

Focusing on your mental health during the winter and holidays is important. It is acceptable to take time and make yourself a priority.

Winter is difficult for many people because of the lack of sunlight, less social interaction, isolation, and holiday stress. Over the past decades, it has become a social expectation during the holidays to encourage more frequent and larger quantities of alcohol and drug use as a form of celebration. However, using alcohol or drugs is the opposite of a celebration for those people who are struggling with addiction symptoms. They may find themselves isolating, and making less rational decisions such as drinking and driving, for example.

For some, the holidays can be

lonely because of a lack of social interactions with friends, family, and coworkers. This season can also be an unhappy time for those who do not have, or are estranged from, the close relatives with whom they once celebrated.

If you are recovering from an addiction to alcohol or other substances, these emotions might cause more cravings and urges to drink or use. If you are new to recovery from drugs or alcohol, this may be the first holiday season you are facing without the unhealthy coping skills that you turned to in the past. It may be a difficult transition because of the emotional connection associated with friend and family gatherings, holiday festivities, and familiar places.

There are many positive coping skills you can use during the holidays if you find yourself

struggling. Here is a list of five coping skills that may help you get through the winter months:

Set boundaries: You can be prepared to resist the social pressure to drink or use drugs. Practice saying no if offered a drink or drug at a social gathering. If you feel uncomfortable with the idea of attending a social gathering where there may be alcohol or other substances, it is okay to turn down an invite.

Limit triggers: When you can identify what triggers you to want a drink of alcohol or to use drugs, you can limit those triggers. Avoiding people, places, or things that cause urges to use can be a way to lessen triggers. Taking care of your needs during the holiday season is essential. Some examples of self-care could be practicing mindfulness, exercising, volunteering, finding a

healthy activity or hobby to participate in, and eating nutritious foods.

Connect with others in recovery: If you like to attend 12-step meetings, one will most likely be held in person or online on Christmas or New Year's. Connecting with others in recovery can offer you an outlet to express your emotions about the holiday season to someone who understands what you are going through. Additionally, this should be a safe environment where substances are less likely to be present.

Start new traditions: If you are used to drinking or using drugs during the holiday season to celebrate, this is an opportunity to hold space for new healthy traditions that you can practice in your recovery for years to come. These traditions could include

volunteering at a local charity or a good cause in your community, having a sober party with your friends and family, signing up for a holiday fun run, or creating crafts to commemorate the holidays.

Get active: Winter can cause a feeling of stagnancy. But living in the Upper Peninsula brings many opportunities to enjoy recreational activities like snowshoe hiking, ice fishing, cross-country skiing, and more. Exercise is a form of self-care that will keep you feeling better about your health and well-being.

If you or someone you know is struggling with substance misuse or other mental health symptoms, call the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration hotline at 1-800-662-HELP (4357) or the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 988.

GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC MUSEUM

Call for Artists - Beadwork


Anishinaabek: The People of This Place Beadwork Project

Introduction and Background:

For 30 years, the Grand Rapids Public Museum has been proud to share one of its core exhibits, Anishinaabek: The People of This Place, created collaboratively with the Anishinaabe people of Michigan. Over the next two years museum staff and Native partners will completely redesign this space to breathe new life into this exhibit for future generations. Under the guidance of the Estoojik Advisory Council and community partners, the expanded exhibit will continue the story of Anishinaabe people, emphasizing the theme of "We Are Still Here." We can't wait to share the new exhibit, Anishinaabek: The First People of This Place, beginning in 2026.

The Grand Rapids Public Museum is placing a call for artists to submit two (2) pieces of beadwork to be integrated over the entrance of the redesigned Anishinaabek: The People of This Place exhibit. We aim to collect a total of 383 beaded squares (hereby referred to as tiles), size 4 inches x 4 inches. Artists are requested to submit 2 tiles; 1 with a white background and 1 with a darker background of the artist's choosing. Once all tiles are assembled, the completed panel will be 3' 8" tall x 11' long and will hang over the entrance of the redesigned Anishinaabek: The People of This Place exhibit.

Please see the following rendering for reference:



The entire design would be 3' 8" tall and 11 feet long. A total of 383 squares must be produced. 183 would be of the individual artists choosing and 180 would be in the white bead pattern.

272 Pearl Street NW
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504
616.456.3977
grpm.org

GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC MUSEUM

Request for Proposal

Anishinaabek: The People of This Place Mural Project

Introduction and Background:

For 30 years, the Grand Rapids Public Museum has been proud to share one of its core exhibits, Anishinaabek: The People of This Place, created collaboratively with the Anishinaabe people of Michigan. Over the next two years museum staff and Native partners will completely redesign this space to breathe new life into this exhibit for future generations. Under the guidance of the Estoojik Advisory Council and community partners, the expanded exhibit will continue the story of Anishinaabe people, emphasizing the theme of "We Are Still Here." We can't wait to share the new exhibit, Anishinaabek: The First People of This Place, beginning in 2026.

The Grand Rapids Public Museum is accepting proposals in response to this Request for Proposal (this "RFP," or this "Request for Proposal") in order to find qualified sources to provide three 18' 6" wide x 9-10' high (185 sq. ft.) murals in the gallery outside of the Anishinaabek exhibit. Our goal with the murals is to provide three culturally relevant panels that inform and invite guests to explore Anishinaabek stories at the GRPM. Location of the murals is the 3rd floor gallery, outside of the Anishinaabek exhibit. Ideally murals will be painted directly on the provided smooth white walls, although we will consider off-site work with the artist responsible for delivery and installation. Artists depictions should reflect one of the following:

- The Anishinaabe Creation Story
- The Three Fires
- Modern Anishinaabek in Grand Rapids (i.e. indigenous people in a streetscape, careers, daily activities)

The objective of this Request for Proposal is to locate three Anishinaabek artists that will provide the best overall depictions as determined by Museum staff and the Estoojik Advisory Council.

Submission Guidelines and Requirements:

The following submission guidelines & requirements apply to this Request for Proposal:

Artists should submit their rendering of the topic(s) of their choice to Katrina Furman at kfurman@grpm.org no later than February 28, 2024.

Artists may include references and locations of similar projects as part of their response. Examples of work may be included as well.

272 Pearl Street NW
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504
616.456.3977
grpm.org

Michigan tribes awarded climate change support

The Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan will be a new grantee of AmeriCorps's MI Healthy Climate Corps on Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant.

CPRG is a grant through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to help develop climate action plans with six tribes in Michigan: Bay Mills Indian Community, Grand Traverse Band of Chippewa and Ottawa Indians, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Nottawasippi Huron Band of the Potawatomi, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

The MI Healthy Climate Corps accelerates Michigan's climate action through capacity building and leadership development. Members serve across the state to advance the MI Healthy Climate Plan's goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. The plan, unveiled by Governor Gretchen Whitmer in 2022, aims to avert



Lucas Roff, environmental technician with MI Healthy Climate Corps, will be helping participating tribes create greenhouse gas inventories along with emission projections as part of Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. He will also be providing support on Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan's NOAA B-WET project to provide students with meaningful watershed educational experiences.

the worst impacts of the climate crisis; create good-paying jobs; position Michigan as a climate action leader; and build a healthier and more prosperous, equitable, and sustainable Michigan for all Michiganders.

MI Healthy Climate Plan lays out a broad vision for fulfilling Governor Whitmer's commitment to achieving 100% economy-wide carbon neutrality in Michigan by midcentury. MI Healthy Climate Corps members serve at organizations across Michigan, providing critical support to communities tackling climate change. The program launched in early 2024 with new cohorts selected annually. MI Healthy Climate Corps members receive significant training and career development support to step into Michigan's climate leadership pool. The Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan is one of thirty-one communities or organizations that will be hosting the new MI Healthy Climate Corps. "Plans will include how

the Tribes will combat climate change for the next 25 years," said Dustin Paras, the CPRG Program Manager. "We also plan to include complete greenhouse gas inventories for each participating Tribe, emissions projects and emissions reducing projects that the Tribes can use to lower their carbon footprint."

"My role in this project will be helping create greenhouse gas inventories for the Tribes along with emission projections," said Lucas Roff, Environmental Technician with MI Healthy Climate Corps. "I'll also help with obtaining Tribal members' input for these plans through outreach events this upcoming spring and summer."

Lucas is a cohort for the MI Healthy Climate Corps, partnered with Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan. He will be working out of Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan's central office in Sault Ste. Marie. Lucas is from Sandusky and earned his

Bachelor's Degree in Biology from Lake Superior State University.

Lucas will also be assisting with the NOAA B-WET project this spring and early next fall. The NOAA B-WET grant is funded through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. ITCM has partnered to support Bay Mills Biological Services on the project. The main purpose of this program is to provide students at Ojibwe Charter School with meaningful watershed educational experiences. These experiences will teach students the importance of watersheds and how climate change has a major impact on local watersheds. In this program, students will attend field days at three different locations. In the field days, students will learn how to properly identify a healthy watershed. Lucas's role in this project is to help students during the field days this spring and next fall.

Bay Mills to construct new boat launch with grant

BAY MILLS — Bay Mills Indian Community will kick off another infrastructure project this summer, this time utilizing grant funds from the Great Lakes Fishery Trust. BMIC has received \$125k to develop a permanent boat launch and seasonal dock/kayak launch along Lake Superior, near Bay Mills Township Hall.

These access site improvements will allow for additional tribal fishing crews to utilize the waterway, as well as the general public.

The nearest alternative launches are seven miles away, making it difficult for local and visiting anglers to access Lake Superior efficiently. The current site is undeveloped, which limits the types of boats that can be launched and poses safety risks for those attempting to use it. Developing this site will provide a much-needed safe harbor, particularly for anglers who would otherwise have to navigate around Bay Mills Point, a potentially hazardous journey in adverse weather conditions.

"This project is a significant step forward in ensuring safe and equitable access to Lake Superior for our tribal fishing crews and the broader community. It reflects our commitment to balancing economic development with sustainable resource use while honoring our cultural traditions — especially one as important as our treaty fishing right," said BMIC President Whitney Gravelle. "By improving this access site, we are not only supporting local community members but also enhancing safety and fostering a connection

to the water that has always been central to our way of life. We are grateful for the Great Lakes Fishery Trust's support in helping us achieve this vision."

BMIC will be responsible for maintaining the site, ensuring that the facilities remain safe and functional for at least the next 20 years. The tribe will provide regular maintenance of the boat launch and pathways, as well as complete safety inspections. The project will include clear signage outlining user regulations and safety guidelines, helping to

ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all visitors.

The site is under the purview of the Chippewa County Road Commission, who are supportive of the project.

"Chippewa County Road Commission is excited to continue our valued partnership with BMIC through this project within our right-of-way. We look forward to the project beginning," said Stephanie Boileau, county highway engineer.

The project will be completed by September 2025.

MSU Extension is offering virtual tai chi program

Michigan State University Extension is offering a program, Healthy Lifestyle Choices: Learning Tai Chi for Better Balance and SLEEP as a great way to start the New Year.

This free virtual program will run Mondays and Wednesdays starting Jan. 6 through Feb. 26, 2025. Make a choice to join us from 7 to 8 a.m. central (8 to 9:30 a.m. eastern time) to work toward a healthier you.

This series combines Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention and the Sleep Education for Everyone Program (SLEEP). Tai chi has been shown to increase strength, improve balance and posture, reduce stress, increase relaxation, and prevent falls.

Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention is led by a certified instructor. Modifications will be provided for those who want to attend seated or standing. This

program is targeted to help older adults and older adults with disabilities at risk for fall stay active.

Participants will also learn techniques to improve the quality and quantity of their sleep. We will cover the relationship between pain and sleep, sleep basics, sleep hygiene, stimulus control therapy, mindfulness, physical activity, and sleep myths. You will be given a sleep challenge to try, so you can track the

effectiveness of changing your sleep behaviors.

Sessions include: Tai chi warm-ups; Tai chi lesson: one or two movements per lesson, progressively leading to completing six basic core movements and six advanced extension movements; Tai chi cool downs; Sleep education: the relationship between pain and sleep, sleep hygiene, and techniques to improve sleep; and Goal setting and check-in.

To join, connect with Extension Program Instructor Anita Carter at (906) 360-9732 or email her at: carte356@msu.edu, or register through this link: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/2025healthy lifestyle/>

Supported by the Rural Health and Safety Education program, project award no. 2024-46100-42884, U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

Fluoride can be found in all natural water supplies

JESSICA A. RICKERT, DDS, ANISHINAABE DENTAL OUTREACH

Tooth decay is the most common chronic disease of childhood in the United States. This is an infectious disease caused by bacterial plaque on the tooth surface metabolizing sugars and producing acid, which dissolves the surface of the tooth. If unchecked, this process continues through the tooth and into the nerve.

This can lead to local infections, systemic infection, and, in rare cases, death. Dental disease in the United States is responsible for 51 million school hours lost per year.

Fluoride is found in all natural water supplies. Fluoride is a naturally occurring mineral called calcium fluoride ions, and is found in rocks that leach into water. The natural level of fluoride in the water varies depending

on the type of rocks the water is in contact with. The fluoride ions added during municipal fluoridation are identical to the naturally occurring calcium fluoride ions. All vegetation contains some fluoride, which is absorbed from soil and water. Some plants concentrate fluoride ions; an example is all tea leaves contain fluoride. Ocean water contains fluoride at around 1 part per million.

In 1901 Dr. Frederick McKay, a dentist in Colorado Springs, Colorado, noted these local citizens' tooth enamel was unusually resistant to decay. Then, in the early 20th century, scientists linked higher levels of naturally occurring fluoride in Colorado water supplies to low levels of tooth decay.

In 1945, Grand Rapids, Michigan, became the first community in the world to add

fluoride to tap water. When subsequent studies showed a significantly lower rate of cavities in schoolchildren, water fluoridation began in other towns and cities.

In North America, fluoride concentrations in groundwater are generally very low, with the exception of some parts of the southwestern United States where the Ogallala Aquifer results in elevated natural levels of fluoride in the groundwater.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) currently recommends that all public drinking water contain 0.7 milligrams of fluoride per liter of water, to protect against tooth decay. This very low level of fluoride in water is equal to about 3 drops of water in a 55-gallon barrel. For more than 75 years, public water systems across the country have adjusted the natural-

ly occurring fluoride levels in tap water to 0.7mg/L level for five key reasons:

It prevents tooth decay. An estimated 51 million school hours and 164 million work hours are lost each year due to dental-related illness.

It protects all ages against cavities. Studies show that fluoride in community water systems prevents at least 25 percent of tooth decay in children and adults.

It's safe and effective. For more than 75 years, the most rigorous scientific evidence has consistently shown that fluoridation is safe and effective, so state over 100 health organizations.

It saves money. \$1 invested in water fluoridation saves \$38 in dental treatment costs. Fluoride supplementation is the most equitable way of decreasing dental disease in the general population.

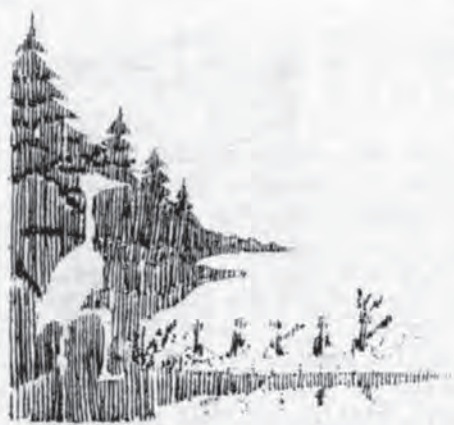
It's natural. Water fluoridation is the adjustment of natural fluoride levels to the recommended level for preventing tooth decay.

How does fluoride in drinking water work? The fluoride crystal in enamel is called fluorapatite. Fluorapatite is incorporated into developing teeth and makes the tooth more resistant to acid attacks from plaque bacteria and sugars.

Dental fluorosis can happen when excessive fluoride is consumed while teeth are still forming. Other than the appearance of white spots or mottling on the surface of the teeth, dental fluorosis doesn't cause any symptoms or harm.

If bottled water is your main source of drinking water, you could be missing the cavity-fighting benefits of fluoride.

From the archives – Christmas flashback 1984



Win Awenen Nisitotung

'He Who Understands'

Vol. 6 No. 9

Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

Manido gizons
Little Spirit Moon
December 1984

Interior supports court-ordered allocation

The United States Department of Interior has decided to support northern Michigan Indian tribes in their attempts to gain a court-ordered allocation of the fishery in Lakes Superior, Michigan and Huron.

Prior to this, the Interior Department had been taking no position on allocation. The state of Michigan opposes a court ordered settlement.

The decision to side with the tribes on the issue was made recently in Washington, D.C. at a meeting chaired by Deputy Under-Secretary Bill Horn, among tribal chairmen, attorneys and members of the Department of Interior.

The tribes involved; Sault Tribe, Bay Mills Indian Community and Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, had asked U.S. District Court Judge Richard Enslin to clearly define the fishing rights for both the tribes and the state by ruling on the primary issues of whitefish allocation and lake trout management. Originally there

was some question as to whether the courts had the right to rule on those issues. Although the courts had decided to go ahead and hear the case the Interior Department had not yet decided to support the court's decision.

It is the tribes' view that if they know how many fish they are entitled to they will be much better able to manage the fishery considering both biological and economic factors. As it stands now state and tribal fishermen are in a competitive situation. When the combined catches of both groups of fishermen reach the total allowable catch limits (TAC), the fishery is shut down.

This has happened by August for the past two years.

The present system encourages a see-saw effect with fish flooding the market during the spring and summer which forces fish prices down until the time the TAC is reached and fishing is greatly reduced causing a rise in wholesale prices at a time when fishermen cannot fish. If the tribes were allocated a specific percentage of the fishery they could manage it to ensure a more consistent income for Indian fishermen while protecting fish stocks without competition from state fishermen.

An April court date has been set.

Getting ready for Christmas

Fluffy puppies, pine cone wreaths, God's eyes, Christmas bells and more are being made by Sault Tribe elders in their craft classes taught by Diane Borrousch of the Sault Community Schools. Classes are held in the Health and Human Services Building in the Sault Thursdays and Fridays at 12:30 p.m.

Photos by Elizabeth Landreville



Pictured from left to right; Russel Mills, Diane Borrousch(Instructor), Alice Andrews, Mae Gugin, Thelma Hill, Elizabeth Bosley Evelyn Sooks, Tillie Eshkibok, Rita Bouschor, George Bouschor, Rosina McCoy, and Agnes DeMott.



Evelyn Sooks



Alice Andrews



Mae Gugin

Airman Beckman completes basic training

A 2024 Tahquamenon Area High School graduate has completed his Basic Military Training (BMT) or Boot Camp at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas.

Airman David Michael-Edward Beckman, 18, completed his BMT on Nov. 7, 2024, and was awarded the Air Force Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon. He is currently attending Sheppard Air

Force Base in Texas where he is studying nuclear weapons and will be stationed at Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri.

Beckman is the son of Nicole Maudrie of Newberry, Mich., and David C. Beckman of Richland, Mich. He has five siblings, Joshua-Paul Maudrie, 20, Alexandria Maudrie, 8, Finnley Beckman, 6, Theodore Beckman, 5, Leila Beckman, 3, and Genevieve, Beckman, 2.

His maternal grandparents are Paul Maudrie, who served in the U.S. Army in the Vietnam War, and Lila Alexander, who are both deceased. His paternal grandparents are David Beckman, deceased, and Nanette Biang of Lake Odessa, Mich.

While growing up Newberry, Beckman participated in soccer, Robotics, and a program called Truth in Nature which is an Outdoor Christian Ministry

and Mentoring program for boys with single moms. He was also part of Illumin8, a local Christian Youth Group.

He was consistently on the honor roll and was honored for his academic achievements by the Tahquamenon Education Foundation while in high school.

Beckman is a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.



Avian influenza: what you need to know

Understanding the H5N1 virus and how to stay safe

BY MAGGIE MAGOON, MSUE

H5N1, often referred to as the “bird flu” or “avian influenza,” is an infection caused by a virus that is commonly found in birds. Currently, it is also prevalent in dairy cows in several states, including Michigan. In rare cases, it can be transmitted to humans or other animals, often leading to respiratory distress. While anyone who is around birds or dairy cattle can get the virus, people working closely with animals, such as those working with poultry, waterfowl and livestock are at an increased risk.

While H5N1 is common among birds, particularly wild birds, it is still rare that humans contract the disease. Since it was first discovered in 1997, there have been less than 1,000 cases in humans worldwide and, as of May 2024, only four of those were in the United States.

Of the four cases, two occurred in Michigan. It is most commonly spread through direct contact with an animal with the virus, its body fluid or feces, or a contaminated surface. Humans cannot get H5N1 from commercial milk or properly cooked poultry and eggs.

However, symptoms to look for in humans are similar to other influenzas and include fever, cough, muscle aches, general fatigue, sore throat, nausea or vomiting and shortness of



breath. In severe cases, avian flu has been linked to serious illnesses including pneumonia, sepsis, brain swelling and respiratory failure. If you have been around birds or dairy cattle recently and feel like you are getting the flu, it is important to be evaluated by a healthcare professional. Though most people who contracted H5N1 in the

United States had mild symptoms and recovered quickly, the worldwide mortality rate is about 50%. Beginning antiviral treatment as soon as possible after symptoms start is an important step in reducing that risk, as well as reducing the risk of passing it on to other species. In some cases, antiviral treatments can be given as a precaution to prevent getting the illness if a person feels like they were potentially exposed.

If you need help finding a doctor, try searching for primary care physicians in your area that are highly recommended, search your insurance provider’s website for doctors in your network, or ask for recommendations from friends and neighbors. There are also search engines that can help you narrow your search based on

region and specialty needed. Where can you find vaccines?

To find a vaccine, check with your primary care physician, local health departments, pharmacies, and clinics. You can also visit vaccines.gov to locate a vaccine clinic near you.

If you would like to learn more about vaccines for preventive health, check out Michigan State University Extension’s Michigan Vaccine Project at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/vaccineeducation/> to find links to event schedules, podcasts, publications, webinars, and videos relating to vaccine education.

This article was written by Maggie Magoon, Michigan State University Extension. It was updated from an original article written by Alyssa Maturen.

2025 Win Awenen Nisitotung Production Schedule

Deadline (Fri)	Unit Reports Due (Mon)	To Press (Fri)	Digital Issue Posted (Mon)	Publication Date (Wed)
January 10	January 13	January 17	January 20	January 22
February 7	February 10	February 14	February 17	February 19
March 7	March 10	March 14	March 17	March 19
April 4	April 7	April 11	April 14	April 16
May 2	May 5	May 9	May 12	May 14
June 6	June 9	June 13	June 16	June 18
July 11	July 14	July 18	July 21	July 23
August 8	August 11	August 15	August 18	August 20
September 5	September 8	September 12	September 15	September 17
October 3	October 6	October 10	October 10	October 15
October 31	November 3	November 7	November 10	November 12
December 5	December 8	December 12	December 15	December 17

Please make your submissions for articles, announcements, advertising, etc., by 5 p.m. deadline day.

To submit, email to **Jennifer Dale-Burton**, jdale-burton@saulttribe.net, or **Sherrie Lucas**, slucas@saulttribe.net.

To make an appointment for photos or an interview, contact:

Brenda Austin, baustin@saulttribe.net or 26221

Scott Brand, sbrand@saulttribe.net or 26555

Miigwech.

For the person in recovery: IT'S OKAY TO SET BOUNDARIES WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY

WE AREN'T BEING SELFISH
If holiday gatherings are a trigger or simply too overwhelming, it is okay to decline an invitation; in fact, it is more than okay. It's healthy!

HURT VERSUS HARM
Deciding not to attend family events or having to leave during the event might hurt your family's feelings, but relapsing could hurt them even more. Have a plan in place if you need it and don't hesitate to do what is best for you.

TELL YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY EARLY
Discuss with people beforehand if you aren't going to holiday get together. Possibly suggest something else with which you are more comfortable.

IT'S OKAY TO NOT BE OKAY WITH YOUR FAMILY'S DYNAMIC/TRADITIONS
Being honest isn't being mean, it's being authentic. It's okay to tell your family that the once loved Christmas shot of booze under the tree makes us feel uncomfortable now.

BE CLEAR, CALM, AND KIND WITH OUR BOUNDARIES
Anticipating some questions from your family and friends is helpful. Try to be kind with your answers. Remember it's okay to walk away if the person isn't accepting your answers or if you feel ill at ease for some reason.

WHAT IF THEY DON'T RESPECT YOUR BOUNDARIES?
Just remember you can manage your boundaries or other people's feelings, but you can't always manage both. Your boundaries may make some uncomfortable, hurt, or frustrated, but that is not your burden to bear.

Six Week Balance & Fall Prevention Class

Open to Sault Tribe members 55 years and older every Friday starting Jan. 10 through Feb. 14, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the Big Bear Volleyball Court (downstairs) at 2 Ice Circle in Sault Ste. Marie. Please wear loose comfortable clothing and athletic style shoes. Class size is limited to 10 participants. Call Sault Tribe Community Health at (906) 632-5210 to register. Deadline to sign up is Friday, Jan. 3, 2025.

Ecological concerns loom as new legal actions filed against Enbridge Line 5

Bad River Band and environmental groups challenge permits issued by Wisconsin DNR

BY ISIAH HOLMES

“The land does not belong to us, it is borrowed by us from our children’s children,” said Robert Blanchard, chairman of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. “We harvest our wild rice from the waters, we hunt from the land, fish from the lake, streams, and rivers to feed our families and gather the medicines to heal our relatives.”

The Bad River Band cites this relationship with the land in its fight against the Enbridge Line 5 pipeline, which has operated in trespass on the Bad River Band’s reservation for years. Now, the band and its allies are challenging the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) decision to grant permits that the Canadian oil company Enbridge will need to construct a re-route of the pipeline. The new route no longer trespasses on the reservation, it will still run through the Bad River watershed. The tribe and a coalition of state environmental groups say a spill in that area could be devastating.

Dec. 12, Midwest Environmental Advocates, 350 Wisconsin, the Sierra Club of Wisconsin and the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin filed a petition for a contested case hearing with the DNR, challenging DNR permitting for Line 5. Shortly after filing the chal-

lenge, Midwest Environmental Advocates received a report of a 69,000-gallon oil spill in Jefferson County.

According to an accident report shared with Wisconsin Examiner, the spill originated from Enbridge’s Line 6 pipeline. Some 1,650 barrels of crude oil are estimated to have leaked from the pipeline, with 42 gallons to a barrel. When plugged into Google Maps, GPS data in the accident report point to a roadway running through a grassy, wooded area. The map shows that the spill occurred near a waterway that flows into Lake Ripley, not far from a group of nature preserves and campgrounds. Although the pipeline segment had a leak detection system, the accident report states that this didn’t alert anyone to the leak, which was first noticed on Nov. 11 by an Enbridge technician.

Line 6 is one of four pipelines that run from Superior, Wisconsin, to Illinois. It carries crude oil from Superior to Lockport, Ill.

Tony Wilkin Gibart, executive director of Midwest Environmental Advocates, said in a statement that the Line 6 spill highlights the dangers of Line 5. “Consider that in the very same week that DNR issued permits for Line 5 based on its conclusion that the risk for a spill would be

‘low,’ DNR was investigating a significant oil leak on another Enbridge pipeline in Wisconsin,” said Gibart. “DNR’s reasoning for approving Line 5 defies common sense.”

In November, the DNR decided to issue wetland and waterway permits to Enbridge as a step towards moving the pipeline off the Bad River reservation. The DNR highlighted that the wetland permits would include over 200 conditions which Enbridge would need to honor, and which would keep the company in compliance with Wisconsin’s wetland and waterway standards. Both the DNR and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers would need to approve the permits before construction of the reroute could begin.

“Many of our people will feel the effects if we lose these resources,” said Blanchard. “In my view, the DNR failed our children when it gave Enbridge the permits to build this reroute. They failed to consider the company’s multiple disasters in Minnesota and in Michigan, which are still being cleaned up. They failed to consider our tribe, our water quality, and the natural resources of the entire Bad River watershed. As a tribal chairman and an elder, it’s my responsibility to protect the generations still to come. That’s why we are fighting this reroute in court.”

The band is represented by EarthJustice in a lawsuit filed against the DNR which, like the petition filed last week by the environmental groups, accuses the state agency of producing an inadequate final Environmental Impact Statement on the reroute which violates the Wisconsin Environmental Protection Act.

Blanchard highlighted his tribe’s reliance on wild rice fields growing along the Bad River and Lake Superior, as well as natural medicines, wild game, and the land itself which are crucial to the Bad River Band’s cultural practices and way of life. Every year the tribe holds an annual wild rice harvest, and Bad River Band members hunt and gather from the land all year.

“If something was to happen during that time, or when that pipeline is in place, you know, it’s really going to affect a lot of things that we do here, and the way that we do things here on the reservation as far as our way of life,” Blanchard warned.

Currently the Line 5 pipeline crosses the Bad River inside the boundaries of the reservation. If the reroute goes through, Enbridge would construct 41 miles of new pipeline to cross the river outside of reservation land. The reroute would still place the natural resources the tribe relies on in danger if an oil spill or leak were to occur.

Stefanie Tsosie, senior staff attorney at Earthjustice, also warned that constructing new pipeline damages natural formations and resources which are often irreplaceable. “Once construction starts they can’t undo the damage,” Tsosie said in a statement. “Enbridge has a terrible track record for pipeline construction and operation. And this place — this watershed and this territory — is not another place they can just plow through.”

Opponents to the pipeline point to a history of ecological disasters due to spillage from Enbridge pipelines. In 2010,

millions of gallons of crude oil contaminated the Kalamazoo River, creating a crisis which took years to address. Over the past 50 years, Enbridge’s Line 5 pipeline has spilled over 1 million gallons in dozens of different incidents.

Today, an area known as the “meander” is also creating concern for the Bad River Band. “The river is changing course, and it does that throughout the way it runs,” said Blanchard. At the meander where the pipeline crosses, he added, “If we have high water events, flooding, harsh winter with a lot of ice build up, and all that breaks loose in the spring, then we get this high water that very well could take that pipeline out, and cause a spill.”

The tribe is monitoring the situation regularly, but this does little to ease their anxieties. The meander is “quite difficult to get to,” said Blanchard, and it’s also just one area of concern along the pipeline’s route. “A few years back, we had an exposed pipeline coming down one of the sidehills up there,” said Blanchard. “There was quite a ways where the pipeline was exposed and just kind of hanging in mid-air, which could have been disastrous if it wasn’t found and something done about it.”

If Line 5 were rerouted, it would still go through other wetlands and habitats outside the reservation. “These are some of the most treasured areas in Wisconsin,” said Brett Korte, an attorney with Clean Wisconsin. “When we think of the beauty of our state, our precious freshwater resources, the places we must protect, these areas are at the top of the list.”

In a statement, Korte added, “This push from Canadian oil giant Enbridge is getting national attention because what it’s proposing to do here in Wisconsin is dangerous.”

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Sault Tribe Health Division 2025 CPR Schedule

**** Please email jo'dell@saulttribe.net to reserve your spot in the class. ****

All classes will be held in the STHC Auditorium

January 15 th	Pro	8:30 am
January 29 th	Basic	8:30 am
February 19 th	Pro	1:00 pm
February 26 th	Basic	8:30 am
April 16 th	Pro	8:30 am
April 23 rd	Basic	8:30 am
May 14 th	Pro	8:30 am
May 21 st	Basic	8:30 am
July 16 th	Pro	1:00 pm
July 23 rd	Basic	8:30 am
August 13 th	Pro	8:30 am
August 20 th	Basic	8:30 am
November 5 th	Pro	1:00 pm
November 12 th	Basic	8:30 am

Pro CPR/AED for Professional Rescuers and Health Care Providers Target Audience:

EMS personnel, firefighters, police, lifeguards, allied health personnel including athletic trainers, pharmacist, physical and occupational therapists, nurses and other medical and health care professionals; public and private safety personnel.

Basic First Aid/CPR/AED for Lay Responders Target Audience: Individuals who need the training for job requirements or parents and other individuals who want to be prepared to respond to emergencies.



**6-WEEK
BALANCE AND FALL
PREVENTION CLASS**



- Open to Sault Tribe Members 55 years and older
- Every Friday starting Jan. 10th through Feb. 14th
- 10am to 11am class time
- Located in the Big Bear Volleyball Court (downstairs)
- Please wear loose comfortable clothing and athletic style shoes
- Class Size is limited to 10 participants

Please call Sault Tribe Community Health at 632-5210 to register.



Brought to you by Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country Project and Sault Tribe Community Health Medical Fitness Program. Made possible with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Tribal, state, and federal advocacy is ongoing



AUSTIN LOWES

TRIBAL CHAIRMAN

Advocacy and Progress

As the chairman of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, it is my honor to represent our tribe and advocate for Indian Country at every level of government. This month has been productive, and I am excited to share some highlights.

Advocacy on National Level

I recently spent a week in Washington, D.C. advocating for the Sault Tribe at the national level. A key part of this trip was attending the White House Tribal Nations Summit, which is an event where tribal leaders meet with the President and his Cabinet to learn how the U.S. government is progressing towards its trust and treaty obligation to tribes.

I was also honored to be invited to the White House Christmas Reception. I was joined by my fiancé at this event, as it was our anniversary. This was a memorable event and a reminder of the importance of building relationships across all levels of government. No one does Christmas quite like the White House, and I was grateful for the opportunity.

In addition to these events, I also had meaningful Capitol Hill visits with elected leaders from both sides of the political aisle.

One of these visits was with Congressman Jack Bergman. I gifted Congressman Bergman artwork from Kim Fyke, who is a Sault Tribe elder and boarding school survivor. I did this to recognize Congressman Bergman's support for the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act. I also met with the Director of the Bureau of Indian Education to discuss the amazing education that JKL is providing our students.

A Message from the Chairman

Advocacy on the State Level

At the state level, I am pleased to report a significant legislative achievement. House Bill 5600, which I testified in support of, has successfully passed both the Michigan House and Senate.

This bill will enhance relations between the Michigan Legislature and tribes by creating an office within the Legislature that will accomplish the following:

1. Maintain relationships with all twelve federally recognized tribes in Michigan;
2. Guide legislators and staff on legislation impacting Indian Country; and
3. Provide annual training to legislators and staff on tribal consultation, history, and current issues.

Treaty Rights Advocacy

I am proud to announce that the Sault Tribe recently presented its oral arguments for our appeal of the 2023 Great Lakes Fishing Decree in the Sixth Circuit Court. Sault Tribe Senior Staff Attorney, Ryan Mills, was assigned this case and did very well. Along with being a talented attorney, Ryan is also a Sault Tribe member who has vast Indian law experience. If our appeal is successful, commercial fishing rights

will expand for Sault Tribe members in 1836 ceded waters. When the court reaches a decision in this case, an announcement will be made.

Enhancing Tribal Services

The Sault Tribe Board of Directors recently passed several resolutions aimed at improving services and resources for our members. These include authorizations for construction and funding of new housing, community centers, fitness centers, a playground at our homeless shelter, and significant upgrades to the Sugar Island powwow grounds. The upgrades include the addition of a well, a bathroom with showers, an electrical grid, and more. I am confident this will enhance cultural events hosted at this location.

Celebrating the Season

The Sault Tribe recently hosted Christmas parties in Sault Ste. Marie, Cedarville, Manistique, St. Ignace, Marquette, Escanaba, Newberry, and Munising. These gatherings brought joy to our communities and provided Christmas presents to hundreds of children. I worked hard to fundraise for these events, and I will announce the total donations in my next unit report.

Feeding America Mobile Food Pantry

I am happy to share that I will be volunteering as the coordinator for Feeding America's Mobile Food Pantry in Sault Ste. Marie.

This program distributes thousands of pounds of food, including protein, dairy, and grains, to our community each month at the Big Bear distribution site. I invite anyone interested in volunteering or receiving food to watch for updates on the tribe's social

media page. Together, we can ensure that no one in our community goes hungry.

Looking Ahead

As we close out the year, I am filled with gratitude for the progress we have made. I will continue

to do everything in my power to strengthen the Sault Tribe. I wish you and your families a joyful holiday season. Miigwech!

Chairman Austin Lowes
Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians



Community engagement important to tribe

ISAAC MCKECHNIE
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Dear Citizens,

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing you a joyous holiday season filled with warmth and laughter. Happy holidays! It's been great working for you and I cherish the many citizens that I get to represent.

Community engagement is crucial for building a thriving and supportive environment. It involves active participation and collaboration among community members to address common issues and improve the quality of life for everyone. My pledge to you is that, in the coming year I am dedicated to build a thriving community for our citizens.

EDUCATIONAL UPDATES Youth Education & Activities (YEA)

In November, our YEA program serviced 2,195 students across our service area with a total of 56 activities as well as routine in-school tutoring, classroom presentations, and the after-school program which includes cultural programming, homework help, and Tribal Youth Council.

Sault Tribe Children's Christmas Parties

YEA staff within each Unit worked closely with respective Board Members to coordinate this year's Children's Christmas Parties. All seven have now taken place and were each a success. Sault Ste. Marie had a total of 276 children and their families in attendance. We are in the process of compiling final totals from the other six sites and will provide update in the next report.

3rd Annual Youth Leadership Conference – YEA

YEA's held the third annual Youth Leadership Conference on Friday, Dec. 20, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. This year, Tribal Unite were our conference facilitators, they are an outreach network and platform who works specifically with tribal communities. They will teach students valuable lead-

ership skills that will help them improve their overall wellness and become strong, resilient leaders within their communities. This year, we also added an adult track to this conference, sponsored by DHHS, Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). SAMHSA staff will be present to facilitate a workshop titled, "Understanding Historical Trauma and Suicide Prevention in AI/AN Communities." We will be offering another adult workshop in the afternoon, called, "Finding Balance," which encourages the use of cultural teachings to achieve balance mentally, physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

HIGHER EDUCATION 2024-2025 Scholarship Program

Scholarship award letters have gone out to students. This year, there were 58 Sault Tribe Scholarships and 2 Joseph K. Lumsden scholarships awarded, for a total of 60.

Fall 2024 Unmet Needs Grants

This week, we are finishing processing Fall 2024 grant submissions, with checks going out shortly thereafter.

Fall 2024 Self-Sufficiency Awards

We will be opening up the Fall 2024 Self-Sufficiency program application window within the next week. This program is an incentive program, awarding students for grades achieved of C or better.

Higher Education Committee

Over the last couple of months, the Higher Education Committee has been meeting regularly. We have a couple of vacancies and need volunteers, so please apply through the board office. The committee has been working on updating goals and purpose statements as well as amending the bylaws to bring forward for board approval.

Tribal Education Department (TED) Grant / Fall 2024 TED Scholarships. The application window for Fall 2024 semester for the TED Scholarship (\$1,000) is open until Jan. 3, 2025. As a reminder, these scholarships are available to any Sault Tribe student who is enrolled part time or full-time in college or trade school within the U.S. So far, we have awarded 239 Fall scholarships. Final numbers will be provided in the future.

Youth Development Fund (YDF)

Since the beginning of the FY 2024 fiscal year on Jan. 1, 2024,

we have serviced 359 tribal youth through this fund, which as a reminder, pays for activities and resources that support children's educational and developmental growth. For comparison, in 2023 for the entire year, we serviced 231 youth, \$63,074 has been spent so far in FY2024. In FY 2023, \$30,867 was spent total. New fiscal year will open up on Jan. 1, which restarts eligibility as funding is provided to eligible youth up to \$250 per year.

Adult Education

Updated numbers for our Adult Education program, in partnership with Community Consolidated School Services, includes 24 enrolled GED students, with 10 being Sault Tribe members. Attendance is strongest at the Kincheloe and St. Ignace locations.

WIOA

Last month, we enrolled two new participants into the training program (CDL) and had one participant successfully complete CDL training. Three youth were placed into the work experience program.

Best regards,

Isaac Mckechnie
imckechnie@saulttribe.net
(906) 400-6661

Looking to move forward with a separation of powers



TYLER LAPLAUNT
DIRECTOR, UNIT V

Aanii, Boozhoo,
Winter is here, and it came quick.
As we continuously shovel ourselves out over the next few months, I'm thankful that we have somewhat of a normal start to our UP winters this year. There is something reassuring about a fresh blanket of snow, although cold, helps us feel warm inside. The cold and quiet of winter nights helps with a natural reset of all things and always gives us hope for a beautiful new Spring where everything can bloom and start fresh. I hope you all are able to take some time over the holidays to enjoy your friends, family, and loved ones. Take care of each other and check on our Elders if you are able.

As many of you are aware by now, we have been discussing amendments to the Sault Tribe Constitution. The board is currently looking to move forward with a separation of powers to begin changes within our government structure. This is much needed within our tribe and, at the very least, our courts should be separate and have the authority to make rulings outside of board influence.

Some say that a two branch government is a fallacy, however, some of the most successful tribes in Michigan operate a two branch government. Some of the concerns that have arisen with the three branch system is tribes often become highly litigious with every branch filing lawsuits against every branch, ultimately halting government operations, daily operations, and costing tribes millions. We have one chance to do this and do it right. So we need to take all of the information that is presented to us and make sound decisions on what's best for OUR tribe.

The separation of powers is long overdue but should not be rushed. We need to ensure that our tribe continues to operate, that code is prepared for any changes that go into effect, and that we know the cost to our tribe at an operational level. We just spent the past few years cleaning up our tribe and getting it out of the red and have to be very careful about how these changes will impact both our day-to-day operations and our bottom line. I am also a firm believer that any elected judge needs to have a law degree and be held accountable to the bar association for an additional layer of protection to our citizens beyond our tribe.

As we continue to discuss the separation of powers Constitutional amendment, I

highly encourage you to attend any meetings we have to discuss these changes and provide feedback. You can also contact me directly. Please monitor the tribe's Facebook page and website (saulttribe.com) for upcoming meetings and any revised versions we will be discussing. This is your tribe and your voice does matter, so please, if you'd like to see this move forward, attend and have your voice heard.

On a lighter note, after years of analysis, review, and debate, we were finally able to pass a new wage grid for every division in our entire tribe. Finally! The last time this happened was over 12 years ago. The tribe is finally in a strong position financially, getting through the lawsuits of the past, and slowly but surely repairing our crumbling infrastructure. It only makes sense that we take care of those that take care of us, **OUR EMPLOYEES.**

While the new wage grids won't impact everyone, they will impact a vast majority of our employees across the tribe. What this will do is bring everyone up to market rates for their positions, as well as fix the wage compression issues that have plagued the tribe for years. If they were already at or above market rates, they will only see the COLA increase in the coming year. We also back dated the increase to Oct. 1, 2024. I am so happy that we are in a position as a tribe to make this happen. More importantly, we, as a tribe, can finally compete with market rates with like positions. This will also make it much easier to step up to the next market study that will be done 5 years from now, so on and so forth.

I'd like to thank all of our Executives for working together to balance the budgets and make this happen. We know that you care about our employees and your tenacity proves that. I'd also like to thank all of the employees who have helped keep this tribe strong over the past few years, especially during the uncertainty of the COVID pandemic. Let's continue to move the Sault Tribe into the future, **TOGETHER.**

CHRISTMAS PARTIES

The Marquette and Munising Children's Christmas parties were both so amazing. I want to thank all of the volunteers and Santa's helpers for making all of this happen. The kids were pumped, they all got incredible gifts, and there were so many smiling faces over the weekend. Between both locations, we had just over 180 kids attend the parties. That's incredible. Again, thank you so much to everyone who helped out.

ENROLLMENT

Update on open enrollment. As of Dec. 13, there have been 4,701 applications entered into the tracking system. These are adults only. They have enrolled 43 members this week. To date, they have enrolled 2,228 members since Feb. 1, including children, and 158 applications have been denied. This is a tenuous process for our Enrollment Department, and they will continue to do their due diligence to ensure that only those applicants who can properly trace lineage are enrolled. Chi miigwech to our

entire Enrollment Department for all of their hard work.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES UPDATE

The hand drum workshop that was canceled is being re-scheduled in early 2025. Everyone who signed up for the first round will have first crack at the new workshop. If anyone drops out, we will take new enrollees. We will definitely be bringing another round of hand drum workshops to Unit 5 next year to meet the demand of the class.

There are still very few spots left in the cloth diaper workshop, hosted by Leah Blanchard of Little Agate in Marquette. The spots were originally reserved for Unit 5, but at this point, it will be first-come, first-served. The class will be held on Sunday, Feb. 2, from 1 to 3 p.m. at Little Agate in Marquette. All supplies will be completely covered by Unit 5 Culture funds. This is a great opportunity for families to save money and learn and access resources for sustainable environmentally friendly diapers. Space is limited, so if you're interested, please contact Stacie at (906) 203-4768.

As we look forward into 2025, we will continue to host a multitude of cultural events and workshops in Unit 5 in both the Munising and Marquette areas.

If you or someone you know is interested in teaching a workshop, please contact me and let me know the details.

As of right now, we are looking at doing storytelling, hand drum workshops, medallion making, ribbon skirt and ribbon shirt workshops, animal processing, cooking and preservation, harvesting, and anything else we can find cultural teachers for.

Our next Culture night in Marquette is on Dec. 26 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the Marquette Community Center. Currently, we are in the garages, but are making it work and people are still having an amazing time. Our drum group and singers have been busy with dozens of requests and we continue to grow. If you are interested in learning more, just show up and say hi. We will be having a holiday meal served on the 26th with lots of folks bringing in dishes to pass, so it's going to be a really special one.

We continue to host bi-weekly culture night every second and fourth Thursday from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the Marquette Community Center on 204 Cherry Creek Road. Everyone is welcome, whether you are an Elder knowledge keeper or someone new to our culture and taking your first steps. This is a safe space to ask questions, participate, learn, and make great friends. Dinner is always provided for everyone in attendance. People are welcome to bring a dish to pass or story to share, but absolutely nothing is expected out of those in attendance other than kindness and consideration of others.

ELDERS

The next Unit 5 Elder Meeting and Meal in Munising will be held on Thursday, Jan. 2, 2024, at the Munising Tribal Health Center from 11 a.m. to 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 will be held on Thursday, Jan. 2, 2024, at the Holiday Inn in Marquette from 6 to 8 p.m. All you need to do to participate is be a Unit 5 or surrounding Unit 4 Elder aged 60-plus.

If you have any questions, comments, or would just like to discuss something with me, please use my contact informa-

tion below.
You can also reach out to Unit 4/5 Liaison Mary Jenerou at mjenerou@saulttribe.net or (906) 450-7011 or (906) 341-8469.

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



Unit V children's Christmas party participants and volunteers.



FREE

CLOTH DIAPERS!

Are you a member of the Sault Tribe?
Do you want to use cloth diapers?

JOIN **LITTLE AGATE** FOR A FREE CLOTH DIAPER CLASS!

IN ADDITION TO THE CLASS YOU WILL RECEIVE:

- A complete cloth diaper stash
- Hands on instruction
- Live demonstrations on how to wash and use your cloth diapers
- A free cloth diaper safe diaper rash creme
- A free bag of Little Agate's favorite eco friendly detergent

1015 N THIRD ST
MARQUETTE, MI
LITTLEAGATE.COM

CALL STACIE TO REGISTER
906-203-4768

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY
2ND 1PM-3PM**

Hampton, Barbeau report on Nov., Dec. work



KIMBERLY HAMPTON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV

Aaniin, boozhoo kina waya. We hope that everyone had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We are happy to announce that we are looking for a tentative February Grand Opening celebration for the Manistique Fitness Center. Keep your eyes open for announcements and flyers. Just a reminder that Nov. 1 was the opening for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Applications can be picked up in Manistique at the Tribal Center, located at 5698W US Highway 2. If you have any questions contact the center at (906) 341-6993.

This past month was the Escanaba and Manistique Children's Christmas parties, which were both a huge success. Escanaba's had an estimated 240-250 people in attendance. Miigwech to all who helped with such a successful party. The Manistique party had an esti-



LARRY BARBEAU,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV

mated 200-plus participants and again miigwech to everyone who helped. Without the help of all of you, neither party would have been such a tremendous turnout.

REMINDERS

Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow
SAVE THE DATE for the 2025 Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow scheduled for June 7, 2025.

We encourage everyone to "like" the Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow Facebook page to keep updated on events.

Unit 4 Elder Meetings

We encourage our tribal elders to attend elder meetings to become involved as well as stay updated on what our elder committees are working on as well as socializing. The next meeting in Manistique will be held Feb. 12, 2025, at 12 p.m. EST at the Manistique Tribal Center.

The next meeting in Escanaba will be held Feb. 12, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. EST at the Escanaba

Community Center, 3721 Jingob Street, Escanaba, Mich. If you plan to attend please RSVP at (906) 635-4971 at least a week prior.

The next meeting in Marquette, for Units 4 and 5, will be held Feb. 6, 2025, at 6 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, 2472 US 41 W, Marquette, MI 49855

UPDATES

Manistique Fitness Center:
We have great news regarding the Fitness Center. The pump was finally received. Certifications and assessments are currently underway and we are hoping for a February open house. Keep your eyes open for flyers and more information to come.

Board Members activities for the last month

Nov. 18-Gaming Authority meeting, board workshop, board meeting

Nov. 19-Held Manistique office hours

Nov. 20-Held Escanaba office hours

Nov. 25-Board workshop

Dec. 2-Board workshop
Dec. 3-Board workshop and board meeting

Dec. 4-Attended Escanaba elders Christmas party

Dec. 5-Attended Manistique elders Christmas party

Dec. 6-Board workshop

Dec. 9-Attended UP Maternal & Family Wellness Committee meeting

Dec. 12-Update meeting regarding Manistique Fitness Center

Dec. 13-Attended the Escanaba children's Christmas party

Dec. 14-Attended the Manistique children's Christmas

party. Attended Garden

Township's Christmas gathering
Dec. 16-Attended Conservation Committee meeting

Dec. 17-JFL Fiduciary

Committee meeting, board workshop, board meeting, Kewadin Gaming Authority meeting

Dec. 18-Monthly State Tribal call

Dec. 20-Attended the Tribal Youth Leadership Conference in the Sault

LOOKING FORWARD

We both look forward to working together, with the membership, to bring improvements in all areas including, but not limited to, community input sessions, office hours for Board of Directors within Unit 4, increasing fishing and hunting accessibility, and more.

We, Director Hampton and Director Barbeau, will continue scheduling regular office hours for both Manistique and Escanaba and will publish days and times, publicly, once they have been set.

The days and times will be posted on social media, in the Sault Tribe newspaper, as well as at the Manistique Tribal Health Center and the Escanaba Community Center.

These office hours seem to be welcomed by members so we will continue offering this avenue of communication.

We will also be scheduling monthly community input sessions and will also be made public. Initially we will do meetings, during office hours, on a first-come, first-served basis and then will transition into scheduled meeting times for members. We still want to encourage members

to contact us via cell phone or email as well.

The schedule for December for Office Hours is as follows:

Office Hours to Meet with Board Members in Manistique: Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2025 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. in the meeting room by the dining area.

Office Hours to Meet with Board Members in Escanaba at the Community Center at 3721 Jingob Street, Escanaba: Friday, Jan. 10, 2025 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. EST.

Katchup with Kim

Katchup with Kim will be Monday, Jan. 20, 2025 at 7 p.m. EST.

Meeting ID: 906 440 8138; Password: KimHampton

Join to "Katchup" and find out what the Unit 4 Board Members are working on.

We both want to give our sincerest thanks for trusting us to represent Unit 4 members and Sault Tribe.

We are always available for questions, comments, and ideas for growth. We encourage members to participate in Maamawi Craft Nights, office hours, community input sessions, Katchup with Kim, and all other activities and events occurring throughout Indian Country.

Our contact information is below:

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

Larry Barbeau, Unit 4 Representative. Phone (906) 259-3040. Email is LBarbeau@sault-tribe.net.

Borowicz reports



SHAWN BOROWICZ,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III

Boozhoo,
Hope the holidays are treating you and your families well with happiness, health and prosperity.

We have been working diligently on the employee wage studies that need to be completed and implemented by the end of the year. Numerous wage studies were done in past years and were never put in place. This current board did not want to make past mistakes and are doing our best to get these passed for our team members. My thoughts on this have always been to give the raises to our front-line workers who need it the most and deserve it the most as they are the ones that keep our businesses open for all our guests to enjoy. Giving percentage raises to our top executives is demeaning to our front-line workers, in my opinion. The biggest raises should go to the least hourly waged workers and get smaller as they go up to the

top executives and managers. At some of our businesses who have to compete for workers with other entities like Mackinaw City and Mackinac Island their wages should be increased from Memorial Day to Labor Day to retain these employees all year long. This in turn would save dollars with Human Resources in doing the paperwork with employees leaving in the spring and then coming back in the fall. We will do the best we can with the resources we have for all our employees.

The new Constitution and separation of powers is also being workshopped. The original documents that were worked on and proposed by the Elder Committee in 2012 is a three branch of government that should be implemented as proposed. Since it was completed that long ago a few changes may have to be made to keep up with the current makeup of the tribe. This is ongoing in workshops and will hopefully get this implemented as soon as possible.

The childrens' and elder Christmas parties were a great success, as always. It was a great time talking to the children, the families and the elders. There were numerous volunteers that made these events happen and a big thank you goes out to all of them.

Merry Christmas and happy New Year. Any questions or concerns, contact me at sborowicz@saulttribe.net or (906) 379-8511.

Shawn Borowicz

SAULT STE. MARIE TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025 CALENDAR

January 7	Sault Ste. Marie	January 21	Sault Ste. Marie
February 4	Sault Ste. Marie	February 18	Sault Ste. Marie
March 4	Sault Ste. Marie	March 18	Sault Ste. Marie
April 1	Sault Ste. Marie	April 15	Manistique
May 6	Sault Ste. Marie	May 20	Sault Ste. Marie
June 3	St. Ignace	June 17	Sault Ste. Marie
July 1	Sault Ste. Marie	July 15	Detroit Area -TBD
August 5	Sault Ste. Marie	August 19	Sault Ste. Marie
September 2	Sault Ste. Marie	September 16	Munising
October 14**	Sault Ste. Marie	October 21	Sault Ste. Marie
November 4	Sault Ste. Marie	November 18	Hessel
December 2	Sault Ste. Marie		

Per the Constitution and Bylaws, Article 1 – Meetings of the Board of Directors, Section 1:provided that at least one meeting per year shall be held in each of the five election units established pursuant to Article V, Section 1 of the tribal constitution.

General meetings of the Board of Directors are held the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month.

All general meetings start at 5:00 p.m. All Sault meetings will be held at the Kewadin Casino and Convention Center, other locations to be announced. Meetings with ** are changed to accommodate the Chair/Board attendance at MAST, NCAI, United Tribes, various Washington D.C. meetings, and/or holidays.

All special meetings will be announced.

For further information please call Lona Stewart (ext. 26338) or Ashlee Mielke (ext. 26337) at the Administration Office: (800) 793-0660 or (906) 635-6050.

Director Sorenson reports on Unit 3, tribal issues



BRIDGETT SORENSON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III

The board met on Nov. 25 as a special workshop to talk with the EDC director about some of the concerns and new projects he was looking into. It is hard to really cover all the information on a weekly basis so this was a good session to spend more time in this area.

The board also met on the compensation studies. The casino and EDC had contracted with Soaring Bird and the government had contracted with Blue Stone as health and housing had previously used them for their reviews. I am not going to lie, I was very disappointed in how the information was presented. It seems like the information was manipulated. There was no guarantee anyone was going to like the results and that decision is up to the board as a unit to make any changes.

There were many suggestions and concerns brought forward by board members that did not get into the document when it was added to the board agenda. The internal auditor compiled information and the officers met

to try to get something we could vote on. This did not happen at the Dec. 3 meeting.

I asked that we call a special session for Dec. 17 and have the day dedicated to the comp study and that the executive staff provide us with something that we can vote on. The board is the one that gets blamed and the team members think we do not care about them. This is simply not true, but I am not voting just to vote. I will always advocate for the front line as they are the ones providing the customer service. Without the front lines, we would have to close the doors.

Others advocate for bonuses, which are nice but once it is spent it does not help your bi-monthly checks. It also does not help recruitment and retention. It should have not be portrayed as raises, it was a market study to compare and see where the tribe was versus other businesses and organizations. Some position titles may not get an increase and that just means the position is at where it should be in the market. My biggest complaint is that we operate the same across the 7-county service area, even though we are in different markets. My area, for instance, competes with Mackinac Island and Mackinaw City so the demand for wages is completely different.

You may notice some new pictures of the board at the various tribal buildings. Normally after an election, the newly elected get their picture taken but this time even the ones elected in 2022 got them taken again. I thought it was a waste of money when really only Larry needed a new picture for never being on the board before. I realize that

some of ours are old, the backgrounds vary, but to me, personally, I didn't see the need.

The board had an open workshop on Nov. 25 on the Constitution. We then scheduled another workshop on Dec. 6 that had our legal counsel go through his concerns and suggested changes. There were some members on Zoom that had asked questions prior to the review start and the chair didn't want to entertain more questions later, which a few of us spoke up against that. It was supposed to be a session for membership input and of course people were getting on and off throughout the day and may want to comment after legal reviewed the documents. The chair then relented to hear from members.

There were concerns brought up on whether to pursue a two or three branch government. Other tribes in Michigan have either type and there are issues on both sides. I think it is our responsibility to reach out to tribes that have either scenario to see what works and what doesn't and make our own decision on what we think will work best for our size tribe. I have personally never been a fan of saying we are a sovereign nation but we want the same government structure of the US government. If in the end after review, that is the best approach, then so be it, but I do not think it is the only approach.

Director Payment insisted on doing a poll on who supports a two branch or a three branch, which seems like a way to shame people if they support one or the other or if they change their mind. I said both because we have not heard from other tribes

nor researched it enough to poll.

The legal team is going to continue to work on issues or concerns they have and reach out to other tribes before coming back to the board. I for one do not want to put documents or amendments out to vote that could have negative consequences. This will not be a quick process regardless of what some will say or try to make the board vote on for political gain. I encourage anyone who is interested to watch these past workshops and attend or watch the future ones and reach out with your concerns.

The elder holiday meal for Units 1-3 was very nice. The staff did a great job on the turkey dinner. I drove a group of elders to the Soo and we had a good time on the slightly scary roads. I will be working on Unit 3 having their own party next year. I think we would get many more people if it was in St. Ignace. All units select an Elder of the Year and this year the Unit 3 elders chose Darlene Bellville because she is very helpful with planning the elder field trips.

I attended the St. Ignace Title VI meeting today, and it is always great hearing that our students are not a minority in our school system. Our current percentage of Native students is 55%, which I believe could be higher once we get more houses in our area. We are very fortunate that our superintendent is a Sault Tribe member as well as one of the principals, and our YEA program is located in our school.

I would like to encourage any parents in the St. Ignace area with children 3 and 4 years old to consider placing them in

the Sault Tribe-St. Ignace Head Start program. The program has always been one of the preferred programs in the area. This is one of the years that the program still has openings, which is usually quite rare. Unfortunately, we have struggled with not having a bus driver, so that maybe another reason we are not at full capacity. So, anyone who enjoys working with little children and has a CDL, or would be interested in getting one, should contact our Human Resource Department or Shondra, the Head Start Program Manager.

I would like to wish DeAnn Salter a happy retirement from the Kewadin Shores Casino Marketing Department. Dee has been a workhorse for decades and will be missed! I had a great time working with her for 10 years. Hope you can enjoy yourself and spend time doing things you love!

I would like to give a shout out to St. Ignace Sault Tribe Elder Veteran Eleanor Fitzpatrick, who will be turning 100 on Dec. 29. She is an extraordinary woman and I hope she has the best day! Thank you for your service, Eleanor.

I would like to congratulate St. Ignace Sault Tribe member Don Wright for dedicating 40 years to the Community Action Agency. Don has helped so many people in our community over the years and has left very big shoes to fill. Congratulations Don, enjoy some family time!

Huge shout out to the Kewadin Shores Casino staff for all the work for our wonderful kids' Christmas Party. Thanks goes out to LaSalle High School's National Honor Society
See "Sorenson," page 26

Director Lee reports on tribal business near and far



KIMBERLY LEE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT II

Aanii, I hope this report finds you safe, warm, and surrounded by the joys of the holiday season. If this time of year brings you challenges, please know you are in my thoughts. If there's anything I can do to assist you during this period, don't hesitate to reach out. Your well-being matters!

Over the past month, I had the honor of delivering testimony at the 19th annual government-to-government consultation focused on addressing violence against women within tribal communities. This event occurred in Santa Fe, N.M., from Nov. 19 to 21. This consultation allows us as a tribe to discuss the problems plaguing our communities and

people.

As I traveled to Santa Fe, I reflected on the trust and responsibilities of representing our tribe. Sharing our struggles is something I will never take lightly. During the consultation, I delivered testimony that was impactful and enlightening. It allowed us to communicate the continuous challenges we face regarding violence against women to representatives of the federal government.

This process is a powerful platform to bring our struggles to the forefront, stressing our communities' unique issues. It also strengthens our efforts to advocate for practical and effective solutions for our tribe's needs. Participating hopes to create deeper awareness and encourage necessary change while ensuring the safety and well-being of women and all members.

On Dec. 10, I had the opportunity to attend the oral arguments for the US v MI case at the Sixth Circuit United States Court of Appeals in Cincinnati, Ohio. This hearing featured a three-judge panel evaluating our position regarding the 2023 Fishing Decree. Each party had 15 minutes to present their key arguments and emphasize the critical points of their perspective.

Senior Attorney Ryan Mills effectively represented our inter-



Conservation Committee member Dave Frazier, Sault Tribe Attorney Ryan Mills, Conservation Committee Chairman Clarence Hudak, Conservation Committee member Paul Barbeau, Unit II Director Kim Lee, Conservation Committee member and Unit IV Director Larry Barbeau and Conservation Committee member Albert LeBlance (L-R) at Sault Tribe's Dec. 10, 2024, fishing decree hearing.

ests with remarkable skill and composure during the crucial hearing. His thorough preparation was evident, and he was ready for counterarguments with well-reasoned responses.

The judges posed several questions throughout the proceedings. Ryan addressed each question, reinforcing our stance and demonstrating the merits of our case. Overall, I felt we presented a clear argument that stressed the validity of our perspective. A

ruling from the court may take a couple of months.

We remain committed to our efforts on constitutional reform and comprehensive compensation studies. However, it is essential to acknowledge that both face significant challenges. I remain dedicated to looking at these matters from all perspectives and ensuring that the tribe's interests and intentions are prioritized in every decision.

Unfortunately, both of my

recent trips left me sick. It seems that the season got the best of me. I missed joining in on our holiday parties and catching up with all of you. Please take good care of yourselves and look out for one another. Stay safe and healthy! I can't wait to see you all soon!

As always, miigwech for your time.

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

Our people deserve a real three branch government



AARON PAYMENT
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

First of all, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I hope you were able to make time to spend with family and friends and recognize the wonderful message in Christmas.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Upon federal recognition in 1972 and in adopting our first Constitution in 1975, our tribe simply complied with the federal government's directive to force our founders and first round of voters to accept a corporate charter Constitution with a chair and board rather than a president and legislature. Worst of all, our Tribal Court only exists at the pleasure and will of the legislature (the board). They can abolish it and have threatened to overturn judicial decisions many times over the years. Boards of the past have launched frivolous investigations against me and others costing over \$.5 million and voted to direct the prosecutor to prosecute me despite having repeatedly advised the board there was nothing to prosecute. Ultimately, I resigned in 2022 because I had no due process and was facing removal from office. Think of it, I had just been reelected with a huge margin but I felt I had no recourse, and therefore no choice but to resign.

Those who drafted our original Constitution intended a real government structure with a three-branch separation of powers but they relented and went with the 1934 Indian Reorganization Act dictated structure that was enacted to expropriate and exploit tribes'

remaining land and natural resources. In creating this colonialized and subordinate artificial governance structure, the feds made it easy for business speculators to cheat our people out of what little we had left. This deficient corporate structure explains the \$1 billion in business losses over the years.

Regarding the argument that we are trying to follow the "white man's way," it is shameful that elected tribal officials don't know our own history and the incredibly destructive experience of IRA constitutions. One board member admits never having heard the world ogema (chief) while growing up. Another for not understanding our Indian ways enough to know why we do not hunt mae-en-gun (wolves). For those who want to follow up here, check out *The Mishomis Book* by the late Eddie Benton Banai. I'm not shaming anyone here for being denied access to our own ways, but I also think they should do some level of homework to learn that which was stolen rather than dismiss our language, culture and governance structures, which reject a one branch government.

I have read the original letters back and forth between the chairperson at the time along with the attorney; they clearly intended to reform our Constitution as soon as they got the chance. Fifty years later (1975 to 2025), we owe our ancestors, our people today, and our future generations to follow through rather than make habitually flimsy excuses. A half a century is long enough.

Unfortunately, some on the board are still pushing for a deficient and made up two-branch separation of powers with a legislature (board) and court with minimal authority of the court as diminished (think controlled by the board through delegation of authority). This will not work as what I have learned over the years is, "what the board grants, the board take-eth away." The authority of the courts and the executive branch need to be enshrined in the Constitution by a vote of the people and no longer left to board discretion.

A serious problem that exists with an oligarchical one branch or even two branch system is that

there exists no clearly discernable authority for the executive branch (chair). Currently, games are often played to strip the chair, executive director, casino CEO, enterprise director, etc., of authority and chain of command if the board doesn't like their actions. Currently we have an arbitrary, capricious and make it up as you go along approach. This is power run amok with no "humility" exercised at the board level. This is also why we cannot recruit or retain highly qualified Sault Tribe executives. Besides pretending to follow our seven grandfather teachings, board micromanagement of the tribal administration does not respect that the tribe hires experts to operate the tribe. A lay board will NEVER have the expertise necessary to administer tribal operations.

Worst of all, intruding on decisions impacting your immediate family is called NEPOTISM and if you read the last edition of the tribal paper, nepotism appears to threaten to make a comeback. Remember, a special privilege exercised for a board member's brother or looking the other way regarding the Membership Ordinance regarding dual enrollment is discrimination against everyone else who doesn't get some special familial privileges.

WHAT'S THE SCORE?

After two months of promising to revisit Director Rob McRorie's proposed constitutional amendments to establish a three-branch separation of powers, create a bill of rights and standing in tribal court for tribal members, and to clearly define jurisdiction, the board finally met but just twice. The second session felt like we were backsliding until Director Rob McRorie and I requested a poll of the board to determine who supported a three-branch separation of powers versus a two branch. The poll was taken after Chairman Lowes gave an excellent rationale in one of the best speeches I have heard to support a three branch Constitution. The results are as follows of those who support a three branch versus a two branch:

3 BRANCH (7)*

Chair Austin Lowes, Director McRorie, Director Causley-Smith, Director Hampton, Director

Barbeau, Director Borowicz, Me 2 or 3 BRANCH (5)

Director LaPlaut, Director McKechnie, Director McKerchie, Director Gravelle, Director Lee

NEITHER? (1)

Director Sorenson

* 7 votes is all that is needed.

In the end, I hope and anticipate that LaPlaut, McKechnie, and Lee will abandon the two branch concept. I hope that McKerchie will support a three branch and prove me wrong that he only supports a two branch. We only need seven votes, so hold-outs ultimately should not be able to hold up progress. My political instincts tell me that we will end up with two or three abstentions, which end up as protest votes. Still, 10 yes votes gets the job done.

NEPOTISM MAKING A COMBACK?

While I am not a liberty to share from closed sessions of the board, a board member's choice to use their unit report to advocate to overturn a policy decision made regarding an immediately family very clearly violates our tribe's Ethics Code. What I will say is that the board enacts policies and, in this case, as deemed by the tribal administration, Human Resources and as carefully overseen by the board, I can attest that all policies and procedures were followed. A board member writing about their immediate family member's grievances does not change anything. It's embarrassing to the tribe that they would spend political capital advocating for their brother as part of their official duties to overturn the decision regarding this matter. It's sad, pathetic and again, violates our Ethics Code. It is important to note that while this board member writes regularly in his unit report about his feigned disdain for micromanagement, when it comes to immediate family, he apparently has a different value structure. I can say that in my time on the board, I have never seen a board member so blatantly and publicly advocate in a unit report or at the board table for an immediate family member.

As one of the strongest justifications for a three-branch separation of powers, we need both an independent executive branch that can investigate what I believe are

crimes like those above it violates policy for a pecuniary benefit (personal enrichment) of certain individuals based on nepotism. Nepotism amounts to theft, which steals from every man, woman, child, and elder of the tribe. The executive branch should be able to investigate without fear or favor and prosecute such actions. Further, the courts should be able to adjudicate and convict even board members for involvement in infiltrating the operations of the tribe on behalf of your immediate family; especially when theft or a financial gain is involved.

ACA HEALTH CARE: SIGN UP NOW

Over the last few months, I have sounded the alarm of the threat to our third party revenues for health as well as how 100% of our federal tribal funding is threatened given the Elon Musk and Trump's threat to cut \$2 trillion out of the federal budget when \$1.4 of this is discretionary funding, including tribal law enforcement, health, education, victim service, child welfare, social services, and emergency needs, etc.

Who knows if this will come to fruition. But, in the event these threats come true, it may be more difficult to eliminate Medicaid expansion or health insurance if a horde of tribal members get on the ACA Exchange. Maybe those currently on will be grandfathered. So, I urge everyone reading this, if you have not signed up for the ACA in one form or another, please do so now. See the link below and be persistent: <https://www.ihs.gov/aca/thingstoknow/>

If you need help, contact me and I'll personally try to help or put you in touch with someone who can help. Remember, we pre-paid for these benefits with the 2 billion acres of Indian lands ceded and the 14 billion acres our Sault Tribe ancestors ceded in the 1836 Treaty. ACA sign up is open all year round for American Indians/Alaska Natives, so go online now and sign up now before it is too late.

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

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

Miigwech for everyone's hard work and dedication



MICHAEL MCKERCHIE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

I recently attended the Unit 1, 2 and 3 Elders' Christmas dinner. It was nice seeing and talking to a lot of Elders. Miigwech to the team members and volunteers who put on a great meal — a good time was had by all.

With this being the last report of 2024, I would like to take a moment to say miigwech to everyone who works hard to

improve our tribe and to everyone who focuses on moving our tribe forward in a good way. We have much to be thankful for and many good things happening.

Chi Miigwech to all those who fight to keep our traditions alive. As someone who has tried making regalia, tried Anishinaabemowin classes, attempted to try traditional dancing, and attended several craft sessions — I know none of it is easy, so again, thank you. For those who are considering going, I would strongly suggest you do. Whether is a drum-making class or craft night, just go — you won't regret it. No skill level needed but you'll be amongst good company.

Our casino renovations are on track and looking great. All five of our casinos have gone non-smoking, and overall we're seeing a great response. Several of our departments have hosted many great events and teachings this year. Watch their official Facebook pages for updates. We have many

amazing advocates working hard on behalf of our tribe, whether it's victim services, natural resources, education, etc., or one of the many committees that the tribe has to help guide the board. I am proud to know that we have you all doing your best for us. We've seen many big changes with the structures of our Medical and IT departments this year and for the most part it seems that these changes are working. Nothing is ever perfect but I appreciate all that's being done to make these transitions successful.

Other transitions help point out that a lot of work is still needed. Our efforts to reform our constitution and make amendments for separation of powers continues. Our members deserve to be able to challenge our board's decisions through referendums in a meaningful way or challenge resolution's constitutionality in our court. Team members and their employment rights are in danger

with board micromanagement and little protections are afforded when policies are no longer followed or adhered to.

Lastly, I want to give a shout out to the Cultural Department and those that volunteer as they get ready for the New Year's Eve Sobriety Powwow. If you've never been to one, you should definitely check it out.

I know I can't mention every-

one and every department but know that I see you and I say chi-miigwech! Your work and dedication is what makes us successful.

As always, I urge members to continue to get involved and continue to hold the board accountable with your voices.

Please reach out to me to discuss issues and concerns, I can also be reached at (906) 440-7768. Chi miigwech.

Sorenson report continued

From "Sorenson," page 25
students for wrapping the presents and Sue St. Onge and Leslie Werkeiser for representing the Sault Tribe YEA with ornament crafts and a coloring table. Our community is very supportive by donating their TITO tickets to help with the cost of the party. Thank you also, to all the donors in our communities and those we do business with.

Merry Christmas to all of our staff for caring for our customers and membership, you are the backbone of our organization!

Merry Christmas to all of our members, old and new! I hope we all have the best year in 2025 with our families, our health and our successes!

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

Director Causley: Unit 2 contributions on projects



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

I would like to start this report by communicating to you that I have requested an open member workshop to discuss the session we have during membership input. I have been advised that this will be scheduled for Jan. 14 afternoon session. It's time to make a change and create a better system for the members. It's embarrassing and not okay that we have become a mute body of leaders to be prohibited from even answering a simple questions when asked by the members during the time you have. The structure was initially set so there was no debate and defaming during that time (but it was also orchestrated and allowed at different times). Now it has become a something that was not ever intended, as far as I'm concerned. That we cannot even answer a direct question about a date for a meeting in that setting is just

wrong. I plan to request that we change the rules to have a professional and diplomatic dialogue for members to be respected and if the question is answerable at the moment, then the chair can speak on that. This can be professional and respectable. It has worked before and if professionally handled, it can work again. Staying mute and being "prohibited" from answering a direct question is not acceptable. I do absolutely agree it should not be a format to defame anyone but, again, that takes a professional leader to handle. I'm looking forward to our discussion and trying to make a change for better communication with the members in that setting.

I would like to thank our Unit 2 Youth Education and Activities Program staff, Kara Windsor and Kelly Paquin, for organizing and doing both amazing children's Christmas parties for Newberry and Hessel areas. The time and care that you and all the volunteers put in is so appreciated.

Here is a list of the 2% requests that we have funded for the fall distribution in our unit. These projects help in our communities and our members and our tribe can be proud of our contributions to our areas. We funded each request in some way. The amounts requested in total exceed the amount we have to distribute. Clark Township Heritage Ballpark Upgrades, \$5,000; ST Pickford Township Museum

Electrical Upgrades, \$4,800; Clark Township Auxiliary Kids Night, \$2,150; Newton Township Fire Truck Garage, \$21,000; DeTour Township Marina Park Canopy, \$10,000; Trout Lake Township Newland Fishing Dock, \$14,577.90; Tahquamenon Area Schools New Furnishings for Library,

\$5,000; Village of DeTour Water Tower Maintenance, \$15,000; Trout Lake Township Museum Management, \$2,205; and Hudson Township EMT Equipment, \$5,000.

I want to wish all of you a very blessed and healthy Christmas and New Year. We have lost many loved ones this

year and our little time on earth is short so please live and love in the moment and take good care of each other. If you would like to meet or need to discuss or have input and ideas — please reach out to me any time.

Baamaapii, Lana Causley-Smith, (906) 322-3818 or lcausley@saulttribe.net.

Hotel renovation to be complete at 2025 end



**KIM GRAVELLE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

Aaniin,

I want to wish everyone and their families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I would also like to thank our team members for their hard work and continued dedication.

I enjoyed seeing everyone at the Elder Christmas Dinner and hope to see you at our New Year's Sobriety Powwow at the Big Bear Arena, Dec. 31, 2024. Vendors (must be tribal) set up

at 2 p.m., doors open at 3 p.m., dinner at 5 p.m., sobriety recognition at 6 p.m. and grand entry at 7 p.m. For powwow or vendor information, contact Becki Miller at rmiller@saulttribe.net or call (906) 635-6510. **PLEASE NOTE: VENDORS MUST CALL TO RESERVE SPACE PRIOR TO THE POWWOW.**

As I write this report, we continue with upgrades to the Kewadin Sault hotel. The hotel tower and back service wall are on schedule to be completed by the end of December. The failing exterior EFIS was removed, and insulation, drywall, windows and heating/cooling units were all replaced. In January 2024, the interior hotel room remodel began with 65 rooms taken off-line to be fully remodeled and were completed in July. Another 65 rooms were taken off-line and are expected to be completed by the end of 2024.

After the new year, Kewadin expects to take the remaining 130 rooms off-line for renovation. This phase is expected to be completed by the end of 2025. Once this project is done, the

hotel will have renovated 260 rooms to welcome our guests. Eight additional suites were added for our patrons to enjoy their stay.

A reminder to tribal members: if you are not an elder, you won't receive the Win Awenen Nisitotung (Sault Tribe newspaper) automatically. Anyone under 60 years of age will need to contact the Sault Tribe Communications Department to request a tribal paper be mailed to them. Please pass on this message to the younger generation. For more information, contact Sherrie Lucas at slucas@saulttribe.net or (906) 632-6398. There is also subscription form on the website saulttribe.com under the Newsroom: Sault Tribe Newspaper tab.

As always keep the men and women in the armed forces in your prayers for a safe return to their families.

Please feel free to call me at (906) 259-3742 or email at kgravelle@saulttribe.net. Please leave a message and I will return your call.

Miigwech, Kim Gravelle

There are enough things out there going viral.



Get your COVID-19 and flu vaccines.

Help keep your immune system from going viral. Talk to your health care provider.

Michigan.gov/COVIDFluRSV



KEWADIN CASINOS ENTERTAINMENT



A Midnight of Money

DECEMBER 31st • ALL SITES

Over **\$40,000** CASH & CREDITS

Noon Year's Eve

Hot Seat & CASH Draws start at 10 a.m.

New Year's Eve

Hot Seat & CASH Draws start at 6 p.m.

Party Favors, Champagne Toast, Cake Hors d'oeuvres, Live Music*

See Northern Rewards Club to register and for more details. Must earn 50 base points to qualify for promotion. *May not be offered at all sites.



KEEPIN' IT REAL TOUR 2025

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