



Win Awenen Nisitotung

May 19, 2021 • Vol. 42 No. 5
Flower Moon
Waskoone Giizis



Official newspaper of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

Missing & murdered indigenous women honored

May 5 is the designated day in the United States to honor and remember Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.

In the United States, Native American women are two-and-a-half times more likely to experience violence in their lifetime than any other demographic. Statistics show that one in three Native women is sexually assaulted during her life, and 67 percent of these assaults are committed by non-Natives. The last known count of missing and murdered women was 5,712 in 2016. Alarmingly, only 116 of those cases were reported to the Department of Justice' missing persons list.

The United States government has failed to provide a valid reason why it has failed to protect and accurately report these missing women. Their reasons have included jurisdictional issues between state and tribal land, a lack of communication between tribes and government officials, a lack of community awareness and support, and insufficient services such as amber alerts and media coverage.

During November 2019, Operation Lady Justice (OLJ) was formed by then-President Donald Trump to enhance the criminal justice system and address the legitimate concerns of indigenous communities regarding missing and murdered people.

Savanna's Act was also passed in 2020 and is designed to assist authorities in responding more efficiently to cases of the missing and murdered. The belief is that law enforcement coordinated responses, data collection, and information sharing will improve the response to missing and murdered indigenous people.

Savanna's Act was named for Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind



Photo by Rick Smith

Advocacy Resource Center is conducting the REDress Campaign on Shunk Road in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. The REDress campaign is a public display of red dresses hung to commemorate all "Missing Sisters" and to honor their memory.

of Fargo, N.D. Savanna was eight months pregnant when she went missing from her apartment complex on Aug. 19, 2017. On Aug. 24, Savanna's baby was located in the apartment above Savanna's apartment that she had shared with her parents. Tenants of the building grew suspicious after hearing a baby crying for several days. The tenants reported there were no babies residing in the complex at the time. Savanna's body was found in the Red River on Aug. 27, nine days after her disappearance.

Brooke Crews and her boyfriend William Hoehn were arrested when the baby was found in their apartment. They were charged with conspiracy to com-

mit murder, conspiracy to commit kidnapping and giving false information to the police.

The baby underwent DNA testing that confirmed it was indeed Savanna's daughter that had survived a criminal C-section. Savanna's daughter has since been reunited with her father.

The Advocacy Resource Center again hosted the REDress Campaign on Shunk Road in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. The REDress campaign is a public display of red dresses hung to commemorate all "Missing Sisters" and to honor their memory. Wearing the color red on May 5 is also a way to honor and respect all missing and murdered loved ones.

In some tribes, red is known to be the only color that spirits can see. By wearing red, the voices of the missing and murdered are represented and remembered.

The original creator of the REDress campaign, Jaime Black, of the Metis aboriginal group from Canada, said red is the life-blood and connection to all of us.

Please honor our missing and murdered indigenous people and wear the color red sometime during the month of May.

Other ways to honor Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women may be found online at the ARC's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/saulttribeARC.

Submitted by Catherine Hollowell
Beloved Sault Tribe elder, Fannie Aslin, recently celebrated her 99th birthday! Fannie sits on the tribe's Newberry Elder Committee. She is pictured with a dream catcher birthday cake created by her granddaughter.

Fanny Aslin turns 99



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May is National Foster Care Month – join in!

May is a time to acknowledge the 424,000 youth in foster care, and those who help guide, nurture and protect these children. This month provides the opportunity to show appreciation to those who enhance the lives of children and teens in foster care.

Anishnaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS) thanks all of the foster families who help children and families who are struggling. Their compassion and dedication to service change the lives of children and teens every day. We appreciate all you do to help protect and nurture our most valuable assets.

ACFS currently has 17 foster homes, and a number of children in foster care. It is always our goal to pair a child with a tribal foster home. This is the best way to maintain connections to tribal culture and traditions.

ACFS also monitors tribal cases across the United States, and can help match a child with a tribal foster home, even if they are outside the seven-county service area. When there is a pool of foster homes it is easier to match a child with a tribal home.

Anishnaabek Community and Family Services continues to do foster home intakes during this time of social distancing, so it is possible to start the process of becoming a foster parent now.

If you are interested in becoming a foster parent, regardless of location, you are urged to call.

ACFS is always looking for dedicated tribal foster parents

willing to work with a child's birth parents, supportive of efforts to return the child home, able to work with children who have emotional and behavioral needs and able to encourage teens towards independent living

If you are interested in becoming a foster parent, and making a difference in the life of a child please contact Anishnaabek Community and Family Services at 632-5250 or (800) 726-0093.

On April 17, the Eastern Upper Peninsula Foster Parent Training Coalition held their annual foster parent training. This was an all-day virtual training for foster par-

ents and child welfare staff. There were 87 people in attendance.

Dr. John DeGarmo presented information on Internet and social media safety, and Dr. Stephanie Grant presented information on co-regulation and de-escalation.

Appreciation packages were sent to every foster home that registered for the training.

Participating agencies included Anishnaabek Community and Family Services, Bay Mills Indian Community, Chippewa-Luce- Mackinac Department of Health and Human Services, Great Lakes Recovery Center and U.P. Kids.



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LaBlance Fish Tales: Real life adventures commercial fishing on the Great Lakes



LaBlance Fish Tales, by Sault Tribe member Peter LaBlance, tells of the real life, Great Lakes adventures of his family, through hundreds of years, just trying to earn a living. The LaBlance family are members of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Available from Amazon and Barnes and Noble.



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Principal wanted for JKL Public School

The JKL Bahweting Anishnabe School is accepting applications for a principal (K-8) for the 2021-22 school year.

JKL Bahweting is a K-8 Michigan public charter school in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., dedicated to outstanding educational experiences, serving approximately 600 students.

JKL offers a comprehensive benefits package.

Qualifications for this position are a master's degree or higher in educational administration or educational leadership, valid Michigan school administrator certificate, five years experience in education and five years teaching or building/school district

level administrative experience preferred.

Applications can be found at www.jklschool.org by clicking on the employment opportunities link on the home page.

JKL application package must include electronic versions of the application, letter of interest, current resume, copy of State of Michigan certification and transcripts.

Only electronically filed completed applications with all required documentation attached will be considered.

Position is open until filled.

Employment at JKL is considered "at-will." JKL is an equal opportunity employer.

Kitchen aide job opening

The Sault Tribe Senior Employment Program has an opening for an Elder Services Division kitchen aide. The job is 14 hours per week assisting with the preparation of Elder congregate meals for an assigned meal site. The wage is \$9.87 per hour

Duties include helping prepare meals, assisting with cleaning the kitchen and dining room, following sanitation standards for food preparation and storage, dishwashing, removing trash from building and cleaning. The kitchen aide also assists with assists with inventory counts, assists at other elderly meal sites as needed and all other job related duties assigned.

The kitchen aide must be able to lift 50 pounds maximum with frequent lifting and carrying up to 25 pounds. Physical factors include constant standing, frequent walking, carrying, lifting, reaching, manual handling, use of hearing, smell, near midrange and far vision, depth perception, color and field of vision and occasional sitting, pushing, pulling, climb-

ing, stooping, kneeling, crawling and bending. Working conditions include frequent exposure to extreme heat and cold, wetness and humidity, noise vibration, air quality and occasional exposure to weather. Potential hazards include frequent exposure to moving mechanical parts, electric shock, chemicals, infectious exposure and client contact.

Applicants must be a Sault Tribe member age 60 or over and reside within the seven-county service area. Must undergo and pass a criminal background investigation and pre-employment drug test. Experience in home meal preparation and Serve Safe Certification preferred. Must be able to establish and maintain an effective working relationship with supervisory personnel, coworkers and the general public. Must maintain a good moral character standing. Must be able to communicate effectively.

To apply or inquire, contact Brenda Cadreau at the WIOA / Senior Employment Program, 2 Ice Circle, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783, (906) 635-4767.

How mental health is affected by sexual assault

May is Mental Health Awareness month. The correlation between sexual assault victimization and suffering from mental health concerns due to that victimization is well established. According to RAINN, every 92 seconds someone is sexually assaulted in the United States and are at risk to have some kind of negative effect on their mental health. One in six women and one in 33 men report experiencing an attempted or completed rape in their life time. When men report sexual assault they often face doubt and ridicule. Due to stigma, male survivors can be reluctant to label their experiences as rape or abuse.

Some may not mention the event at all. A reluctance to disclose can prevent men from getting treatment. Some of the effects of sexual assault victimization may be anxiety, eating disorders, sleeping disorder, PTSD, depression, suicidal attempts, psychosis and substance abuse. Without professional help some men resort to substance abuse or self-harm to cope.

Children who have been victims of sexual assault are also at risk of experiencing mental health issues after the assault and into adulthood. Reporting sexual abuse may help alleviate a child from having mental health concerns in adulthood. People

who experienced sexual abuse as children are at greater risk of substance abuse or eating and food disorders. They are also more likely to be victims of sexual abuse as adults.

For survivors of sexual assault there is help available, such as counseling, which offers a safe, private place to get assistance without judgment. You do not have to handle your problems alone. If you are the victim or survivor of Sexual Assault, remember, you are not alone, you are not to blame and help is available. Contact the Advocacy Resource Center at (906) 632-1808 to see what we can do to help you.

Phone and Internet Discounts Available to CenturyLink Customers

CenturyLink participates in a government benefit program (Lifeline) to make residential telephone or qualifying broadband service more affordable to eligible low-income individuals and families. Eligible customers are those that meet eligibility standards as defined by the FCC and state commissions. Residents who live on federally recognized Tribal Lands may qualify for additional Tribal benefits if they participate in certain additional federal eligibility programs. The Lifeline discount is available for only one telephone or qualifying broadband service per household, which can be on either a wireline or wireless service. Broadband speeds must be 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload or faster to qualify.

A household is defined for the purposes of the Lifeline program as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Lifeline service is not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in the program. Consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain a Lifeline discount can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from the program.

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

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Rick Smith.....Staff Writer
Sherrie Lucas.....Secretary

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.

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

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

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

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Experts urge restoration of federal protections for gray wolves

WASHINGTON, D.C. — More than 100 scientists today called upon Interior Secretary Deb Haaland and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to reinstate federal protections for gray wolves under the *Endangered Species Act*.

Wolves lost their federal protections when the Trump administration finalized a national delisting rule in January. Since then, management of wolves has fallen to state wildlife agencies. The letter explains that “state governments have clearly indicated that they will manage wolves to

the lowest allowable standards.”

Under the *Endangered Species Act*, all decisions about the listing of imperiled species must be based solely on the best available science. The scientists’ letter calls upon the federal officials to reinstate federal protections for wolves and “reverse recent and broad trends that have disregarded best-available science with respect to the *Endangered Species Act*.”

The letter is endorsed by 115 scientists with expertise in areas related to wolf conservation, such

State wildlife agencies reject science, demonstrate inability to sustain wolf populations

as ecology, population dynamics and genetics. The letter is led by John Vucetich, a professor at Michigan Technological University, and Jeremy Bruskotter, a professor at Ohio State University.

“It’s very clear. The best-available science shows that gray wolves in the lower 48 states do not meet the law’s requirements for recovery,” said Vucetich. “Not

being recovered, combined with hostile treatment of wolves by states such as Montana, Idaho and Wisconsin, indicates the need for federally guided conservation of wolves.”

“Emerging science and our experience with wolf conservation indicate there is far more suitable habitat for wolves than was once believed,” said Bruskotter. “Recovering wolves in other suitable areas depends critically on wolves dispersing from existing recovery areas. The recent politicization of wolf management in states like

Idaho and Montana puts long-term recovery of wolves in jeopardy by reducing the probability of such dispersals.”

On his first day in office, President Biden ordered a broad review of the Trump administration’s anti-wildlife policies, including the decision to strip *Endangered Species Act* protections from gray wolves. Since then, hundreds of wolves have been killed under state management. The Fish and Wildlife Service has yet to issue any official review of the gray wolf delisting rule.

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Awareness Day 2021 observed

BY RICK SMITH

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Awareness Day 2021 saw observances on May 5 in forms from a presidential proclamation to nationwide temporary displays and other educational functions on the subject.

President Joe Biden issued a proclamation drawing attention to the issue. “Today, thousands of unsolved cases of missing and murdered Native Americans continue to cry out for justice and healing,” the proclamation starts. “On Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) Awareness Day, we remember the Indigenous people who we have lost to murder and those who remain missing and commit to working with tribal nations to ensure any instance of a missing or murdered person is met with swift and effective

action.”

Biden acknowledged, historically, the United States has failed to provide the necessary resources and commitment to confront and prevent the ongoing disproportionately high numbers of MMIP tragedies inflicting Indian Country. “Our treaty and trust responsibilities to tribal nations require our best efforts,” he said, “and our concern for the well-being of these fellow citizens require us to act with urgency. To this end, our government must strengthen its support and collaboration with tribal communities.”

He further expressed his administration is fully committed to collaborating with tribes to address the situation and its underlying causes as well as to build on the successes of the 2013 reauthorization of the

“Our government must strengthen its support and collaboration with tribal communities.”

—President Joe Biden

“Momentum is on our side, and we’re not turning back.”

— DOI Secretary Debra Haaland

Violence Against Women Act by supporting its reauthorization in 2021. Additionally, he said, the American Rescue Plan provides an additional \$35 million in grants for tribes to provide temporary housing, assistance and supportive services to victims of domestic and dating violence, as well as supplemental funding for the StrongHearts Native Helpline, and additional funding for services for sexual assault survivors. He also mentioned support for measures in other existing legislation and

administrative entities designed to combat issues related to MMIP.

National Congress of American Indians President Fawn Sharp said she was heartened by President Biden’s proclamation and echoed his remarks that awareness is not enough and action is needed. “We must continue to take action,” she said. “Thousands of cases of those who are missing or murdered across Indian Country still remain unsolved. We welcome the creation of the Missing and Murdered Unit at Interior to help bring closure to these families. Tribal nations have long worked to develop innovative solutions for their communities and we are committed to continuing to work as partners with the federal government.”

In a May 4 U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) press

teleconference with Secretary Deb Haaland, Principle Deputy Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Bryan Newland and Director of the Justice Department’s Office of Tribal Justice Tracy Toulou, Haaland described personal experiences with MMIP cases in her life and expressed optimism in resolving the disproportionately high numbers of missing and murdered American Indians and Alaskan Natives, “Momentum is on our side, and we’re not turning back,” she said.

Newland described functions of the new Missing and Murdered Unit of the DOI to provide more efficient leadership for MMIP investigations while Toulou spoke about the collaboration between the Department of Justice, DOI and other federal and tribal agencies and their roles.

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White House Council on Native American Affairs resumes

WASHINGTON, D.C. – United States Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland and Domestic Policy Advisor Susan Rice convened the first White House Council on Native American Affairs (WHCNAA) meeting of the Biden-Harris administration on April 23. Secretary Haaland serves as the council’s chair.

“The White House Council on Native American Affairs represents an important

commitment to strengthen tribal sovereignty, uphold our commitment to tribal nations and honor the United States’ nation-to-nation relationships,” said Haaland. “Addressing the systemic inequities that impact Indigenous peoples is the responsibility of every federal agency that will require an all-of-government approach across the administration.”

“The White House Council on Native American Affairs

will maximize federal efforts to support tribal nations as they tackle pressing issues, such as COVID-19 response, reopening schools and rebuilding tribal economic development,” said Rice. “This inter-agency council reinforces the administration’s support for tribal sovereignty and self-governance and will help to fulfill the federal trust and treaty responsibilities to tribal nations.”

The council is an interagency principals-level council that

includes leaders from across the federal government. It was established by executive order in June 2013 in response to requests from leaders across Indian Country. It has not met regularly since 2016.

The convening of the council comes as the Biden-Harris administration has prioritized getting resources out to tribal communities to address the impacts of the administration’s core policy pillars – climate

change, racial equity, economic recovery and COVID-19 response – through the American Rescue Plan and American Jobs Plan.

The council will also ensure that every federal department and agency is engaging in robust tribal consultations as directed in President Biden’s *Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships*.

The meeting took place virtually and was closed to press.

Haaland continues pursuit of justice in Indian Country, begins federal implementation of the *Not Invisible Act*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland recently announced she is moving forward to implement the *Not Invisible Act*, including establishing a joint commission led by the departments of the Interior and Justice on reducing violent crime against American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Congress enacted the *Not Invisible Act* in October 2020 to increase intergovernmental coordination to identify and combat violent crime against Indians and within Indian lands.

The act calls for the Interior Department to coordinate prevention efforts, grants and programs related to missing and murdered Indigenous peoples. Secretary Haaland was the lead sponsor of the *Not Invisible Act* when she served in Congress. The bill was passed unanimously by voice vote in both chambers of Congress.

“A lack of urgency, transparency and coordination has

hampered our country’s efforts to combat violence against American Indians and Alaska Natives,” said Haaland. “In partnership with the Justice Department and with extensive engagement with tribes and other stakeholders, Interior will marshal our resources to finally address the crisis of violence against Indigenous peoples.”

Secretary Haaland is coordinating with Attorney General Merrick Garland to establish a joint commission and appoint members. The commission must be composed of at least 27 federal and non-federal members who represent diverse experiences, backgrounds and geography, and who are able to provide balanced points of view with regard to the duties of the commission. The commission will hold hearings, take testimony and receive evidence in order to develop recommendations for the federal government to combat violent crime against Indians and within

Indian lands.

“For too long, tribes have suffered from high rates of violent crime that ripple across the entire community. It is incumbent on the federal government to partner with tribes to support and sustain safer communities,” said Garland. “I look forward to working closely with Secretary Haaland to honor our treaty and

trust responsibilities to the tribes, to fulfill the requirements of the *Not Invisible Act* and to further our nation-to-nation partnership with tribal governments.”

The announcement followed Secretary Haaland’s recent formation of a new Missing and Murdered Unit (MMU) in the Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Justice Services to provide lead-

ership and direction for cross-departmental and interagency work involving missing and murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives. The MMU will help put the full weight of the federal government into investigating these cases and marshal law enforcement resources across federal agencies and throughout Indian country.

NCAI applauds Haaland’s historic confirmation

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) applauds the historic confirmation of Rep. Debra Haaland as President Joe Biden’s Secretary of the Department of the Interior. Congresswoman Haaland (Pueblo of Laguna), an attorney and tireless advocate for Native American communities, was recently confirmed by the Senate. Her confirmation is a watershed moment for Indian Country, marking the first time in the history of the United States that a Native American has served as a cabinet secretary.

Haaland’s confirmation recognizes the importance of Native American leadership, partnership and representation at a federal agency critical to the needs of Indian Country.

The Interior Department is responsible not only for the management of public lands, waters, mineral resources and wildlife, it holds a fiduciary duty to uphold federal trust and treaty responsibilities to 574 tribal nations and more than 5.2 million American Indian and Alaska Native people.

“The impact of Native American representation at the top of a federal agency that so directly affects our daily lives cannot be overstated,” said NCAI President Fawn Sharp. “The relationship between

tribal nations and the federal government has been fractured for far too long. Having an ally like Secretary Haaland who is not only deeply qualified but is from our communities has the potential to transform the government-to-government relationship and will be vital in advancing Native American issues for generations. We are grateful to President Biden for her nomination to the post, to the Senate for their support and to everyone in Indian Country who supported Secretary Haaland in this historic journey. Most importantly, we are grateful for Secretary Haaland’s history-making commitment to serve and look forward to working with her in her new role.”

NCAI passed a resolution four months ago, which read in part, “American Indians and Alaska Natives have served the United States with honor in the military, in Congress and federal agencies for more than a century, and have made great contributions to the advancement of American democracy...”

Even though American Indian and Alaska Native people are equally qualified as their non-Native counterparts to hold Cabinet positions, this is the first time Native Americans are seeing themselves represented in an office that touches so many facets of their day-to-day lives.

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Anishinaabemowin 2021

Anything worth doing well is worth doing poorly at first. (Ray Congdon)

Waaskoone Giizis

Flower Moon

by Susan Askwith

Bezhik koonzh
be-zhik koon-zh

One beak **1 10**

Mdaaswin zidan Ten feet
mi-daas-win zid-an

Niizh ningwii'iganan
nii-zh nin-gwii-i-gan-an

Two wings **2 9**

Zhaangswi nebshinwinan Nine Naps
zh-aang-swi neb-shin-win-an

Nswi zowan
n-swi zo-wan

Three tails **3 8**

Nshwaaswi ezhi bmigtaa
n-sh-waas-wi e-zhi b-mig-taa
Eight movements

Niiwin towagan
nii-win tow-ag-an

Four ears **4 7**

Niizhwaaswi nowewinan
niizh-waas-wi no-we-win-an

Naanan giizhigadoon.

naa-nan gii-zhi-ga-doon

Five Days **5 6**

Seven sounds

Ngodwaaswi shkiinzhigoon Six Eyes
n-god-waas-wi sh-kiin-zhi-goon

How many of the three friends can do each of these eight movements? Answer in Anishinaabemowin.

Nmadabi Sit _____

Naaniibwi Stand _____

Boonii Alight _____

Bmibzo Fly _____

Bmibtoo Run _____

Mase Walk _____

Gwetaa Lie down _____

Bgizo Swim _____

Act out the 8 movements, saying the Anishinaabemowin word that goes with the action. Get a little rhythm going. Put on some music and dance the movements with enthusiasm! Having fun helps you learn. Physical actions do too.

Write seven sounds that could be made by the three friends (total). _____

Gindaason biinish mdaaswi - enso giizhigad.

Count to 10 every day.

A sheepdog rounded up all the sheep into a pen for his farmer. "All 40 sheep accounted for" he said. The farmer said, "Wait! There are only 36 in there." The dog said "I know, but I rounded them up."

What do you get when you cross a dog and a calculator? A friend you can count on.

There's a fine line between a numerator and a denominator — but only a fraction would understand.

Aanii kina waya! Hi everyone!

aa-*nii* ki-na *wa*-ya

Genii Gaazhikenh maal

This is Me-too Cat!



Nimkii Nimosh
maampii !

Thunder Dog here!

Niin sa, Booniid Bineshiinh

It's me, Alight



Tidbit: The general word for a tail is "zow". For bird tails, you can also use the more specific "nashkid" (*nash*-kid)

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

aa sounds like the a in *awsome* **a** sounds like the a in *tuba*

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

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

e sounds like the e in *end* **g** sounds ONLY like it does in *go*

Pronounce all the letters. *Italic type* will tell you which word-parts to stress. No italics in a word means the parts have equal stress. Long words are broken up with dashes (-); still, say each word smoothly. And notice "nh" has **NO SOUND** of its own. It is a sign to say the vowels just before it "through your nose".

BIA begins disbursement of \$900 million in American Rescue Plan funding to tribes

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs Bryan Newland recently announced the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has begun disbursing \$900 million to federally recognized tribes under the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act. ARP was signed by President Biden on March 11, 2021, and the funds will aid tribes as they address the COVID-19 pandemic and its damaging impacts on Indian Country.

The announcement follows the Bureau of Indian Education's recent announcement of its disbursement plan.

"The American Rescue Plan's funds will provide much-needed aid to tribal governments that have been working to combat the devastating economic impact COVID-19 has had on their communities," Newland said. "I am deeply grateful to Congress and the administration for ensuring that Indian Country is not forgotten in the nation's effort to overcome the COVID-19 crisis and build back better."

The BIA's \$900 million disbursement plan addresses all of the program activities stipulated by Congress in the ARP Act:

- Potable water delivery - \$20

million

- Housing improvement - \$100 million

• Tribal payments and direct service for tribal government, social services, public safety and justice, Indian child welfare and other related expenses - \$772.5 million. These funds will be allocated as follows:

- \$700 million through the Aid to Tribal Government funding line, thereby allowing tribes to reprogram across Tribal Priority Allocation (TPA) lines as necessary. Funding will be allocated to tribes listed in the BIA's Federal Register notice. Allocations will be based on tribal enrollment data, using a distribution approach that groups tribes by enrollment size.

- \$30 million for law enforcement and detentions funding.

- \$30 million for tribes in Public Law 83-280, also known as P.L. 280, states through the social services line. The majority of tribes in these states do not receive law enforcement support from the BIA. To address their unique needs, these funds can be used for tribal safety needs that fall outside of a formal law enforcement program. The tribe can determine whether to reprogram them as necessary to other

areas like tribal courts. In addition, tribes can provide funding to BIA regional or agency offices for direct support services, if necessary.

- \$12.5 million will be held centrally to allocate for unexpected exigencies as necessary.

- Administrative and oversight costs - \$7.5 million: These funds will be managed centrally to support maintaining public health capabilities to have an informed Indian Affairs response to COVID-19, IT surge needs, adaptations for COVID safety requirements, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), staff surge needs, and project management.

The full methodologies for each of the allocations above can be found at the Indian Affairs webpage at www.bia.gov/service/american-rescue-plan-act.

Additionally, a summary of the comments received during the three consultations which were held to inform ARP allocations is at https://www.bia.gov/sites/bia.gov/files/assets/as-ia/pdf/Comment_Compilation_ARP_FINAL_508_Compliant.pdf.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs directly administers and funds tribally operated infrastructure, law enforcement and justice,

social services (including child welfare), tribal governance, and trust land and natural and energy resources management programs for the nation's federally recog-

nized American Indian and Alaska Native tribes. It does this through four program offices, 12 regional offices, and over 80 field agencies.

Wequayoc Cemetery Spring Clean-up & Potluck

A Wequayoc Cemetery Spring Clean-up and Potluck will be held May 22, 2021, at 11 a.m. with potluck at 12 p.m. Please bring rakes, trash bags, work gloves and any other items for cleaning the graves and tidying up the general cemetery area. Please label items with your name to reduce chances of getting mixed up with others' items.

Reminder: Cultural Leave Request forms available for eligible Sault Tribe employees scheduled to work that day. Forms and policy are available on the Intranet or by request. Any Questions or Cultural Leave forms, contact Marie Richards, 906-635-6050, Russ Rickley, 906-440-5696, or Dell Powers, 906-984-2055. CEMETERY ADDRESS: 2354 E. Hwy M-134, Hessel, MI 49745

Superior Health Foundation adds board director

MARQUETTE, Mich. — Tyler LaPlaut of Marquette is the newest member of the Superior Health Foundation Board of Directors.



A citizen of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, LaPlaut serves as the assistant director of Upper Peninsula Health Care Solutions in Marquette.

LaPlaut holds a bachelor's degree in management of health and fitness from Northern Michigan University and earned a master's degree in exercise physiology at NMU.

Earlier in his career, LaPlaut worked as community health educator for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, was an adjunct/special instructor at NMU and was a fitness professional at YMCA of Marquette County.

He also serves on the University of Michigan/Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and sits on the National Institutes of Health Tribal Advisory Committee.

"I strive to better the lives of all American Indian and Alaska Native people through my work and advocacy as a tribal citizen public health professional and educator," LaPlaut said.

In his spare time, LaPlaut enjoys reading, biking, lifting weights and getting outdoors in nature and going for hikes/nature walks with his daughter.

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Spots secured and paid for by June 1 will receive a priority status.

Discount price of:

- \$475 for a family box – feeds 4-6 people (\$85 savings)
- \$350 for an individual box – feeds 1-3 people (\$50 savings)
- Bonus item each month (i.e. eggs, fresh bread or jam)

THE JOURNEY MATTERS

To sign up, stop by The Journey Matters, 545 Ashmun St. in the Sault, visit the Miller Family Farm at 845 W. 6 Mile Rd., email jdebruler@att.net, or call (616) 558-9958.

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3/4-inch plywood floor 2x4 frame 24" OC LP Smart Siding Shingled roof Double door	Treated runners, Joist 12" OC 5/8-inch treated plywood floor 2 x 4 frame 16" OC 7-ft. wall, T1-11 siding Shingled or metal roof Double doors 12" overhang 2 windows	Treated Runners, Joist 12" OC 5/8-inch treated plywood floor Gambrel or gabel sided Roof 2 windows 2 coats stain 4-ft. loft	Treated Runners, Treated Joists, 12" OC 5/8" treated plywood floor 2x4 frame 16" OC Painted or Vinyl Siding Metal or Shigled Roof Double Doors	Treated Runners, Joist 12" OC 5/8-inch Treated plywood floor 2 x 6 rafters 12" OC Shingled roof 7-ft. wall One roll-up door
Sizes 8x8 to 12x24, from \$1,488 to \$5,094.	Sizes 8x8 to 12x30, \$2,502 to \$9,810.	Sizes 8x10 to 14x48, \$3,660 to \$14,645.	Sizes 8x8 to 12 x 30, \$2,049 to \$9,315	Sizes 12x16 to 16x48 from \$4730 to \$17,331
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Board resolutions passed from April 20 to May 4

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors convened a meeting on April 20 with all present and passed the following resolutions.

Resolution 2021-85 – Enterprise Sub Recipient Establishment of FY 2021 Budget and Enterprise Capital Expenditures Modification – Approved for carry over funds of \$1,065,278.19 with \$589,510.33 in expenses, leaving a net income of \$475,767.86 with no effect on tribal support.

86 – Economic Diversification and Land Use Strategy Establish FY 2021 and FY 2022 Budgets – Approved for U.S. Department of Commerce funding of \$80,862.20 with no effect on tribal support for FY 2021 and \$105,848.20 with no effect on tribal support for FY 2022.

87 – Native American Business Development Institute Establishment of FY 2022 Budget – Approved for BIA funds of \$70,000 with no effect on tribal support.

88 – EDC-MEDC Sub Recipient FY 2021 Budget Modification – Approved for an increase in State of Michigan funding of \$39,080 carry over from the previous year with no effect on tribal support.

89 – Elder Division-Title VI A and B Supplemental Funding Establishment of FY 2021 and FY 2022 Budgets – Approved for federal HHS funds of \$16,417.18 for FY 2021 with no effect on tribal support and \$24,382.81 for FY 2022 with no effect on tribal support.

90 – Education-Child Care Center FY 2021 Budget Modification – Approved to change the personnel sheet and reallocate expenses with no effect on tribal support.

91 – ACFS-Domestic Violence CARES Funds Establishment of FY 2021 Budget – Approved for federal HHS funding of \$59,748 with no effect on tribal support.

92 – ACFS-Child Care Development Fund CARES Funds Establishment of FY 2021 and FY 2022 Budget – Approved for federal Health and Human Services funds of \$514,592.75 with no effect on tribal support for 2021 budget and \$632,667.25 with no effect on tribal support for 2022 budget.

93 – Health Division-Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council Supplemental Funding-CARES Funds Establishment of FY 2021 Budget – Approved for other revenue funds of \$20,000 with no effect on tribal support.

94 – Health Division-Paycheck Protection Program CARES Funds Establishment of FY 2021 Budget – Approved for Indian Health Service funds of

\$2,855,133 with no effect on tribal support.

95 – Sault Health Medical Nursing FY 2021 Budget Modification – Approved to change the personnel sheet and reallocate expenses with no effect on tribal support.

96 – Sault Walk-In Clinic FY 2021 Budget Modification – Approved to change the personnel sheet and reallocate expenses with no effect on tribal support.

97 – Tribal Practices for Wellness in Indian Country Establishment of FY 2022 Budget – Approved for Centers for Disease Control funding of \$144,750 with no effect on tribal support.

98 – Approving 2021 Dental Renovation Contractor – Approved for a chosen contractor to provide construction services to the Sault Tribe Health Division to complete a specified and designed dental renovation project.

99 – Acceptance of the 2020 Northern Casinos Audit – Accepted and approved the northern Kewadin Casinos audit as approved by the Audit Committee.

100 – Acceptance of the 2020 Kewadin Casinos Audit All Sites – Accepted and approved the audit which includes the down-state developments, as approved by the Audit Committee.

101 – Amending Tribal Code Chapter 21: 21.601 Registration of Hides – Amended the code to read as 21.601 Registration of Hides. (1) Tribal members shall: (a) At a minimum the skull of all bobcat, fisher, marten or otter harvested shall be presented to a biological staff person of the Natural Resources Department for inspection and registration within two weeks of the close of the season in which the animal was harvested. (b) Fur harvesters may apply for a one-time waiver of the skull requirement with Sault Tribe Law Enforcement. (2) Upon inspection and registration, the animals will have an official seal affixed to the pelt. (3) All CITES applicable animals shall be tagged in accordance with federal law.

102 – Authorizing Purchase for Sault Tribe Child Advocacy Center – Approved expenditure of \$127,600 to buy a modular building for use as a child advocacy center.

103 – Approve Project Location for Sault Tribe Child Advocacy Center – Approved site for the child advocacy center near the Sault powwow grounds and Niigaanagiizhik Ceremonial Building recommended by the tribe's Language and Culture Department, reviewed by Facilities, Planning and

Development and others on the Child Advocacy Center team.

The board reconvened on May 4 with all present and passed the following resolutions.

104 – Environmental – Invasive Species Establishment of FY 2022 Budget – Approved for U.S. Fish and Wildlife funding of \$99,620 with no effect on tribal support.

105 – Natural Resources Division – Inland Fish and Wildlife Department FY 2021 Budget Modification and Establishment of FY 2021 Budget for Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance Program – Budget modification approved for changes to the personnel sheet and to reallocate expenses with no effect on tribal support. Establishment of budget approved for other revenue funding of \$43,314.47 with no effect on tribal support.

106 – Utility Authority – Manistique and Wetmore FY 2021 Budget Modifications – Budget modification for Manistique Utility Authority approved to increase use of federal balance funds of \$500 and changes to the personnel sheet with no effect on tribal support; Wetmore budget modification approved to increase use of fund balance of \$688 and changes to the personnel sheet with no effect on tribal support.

107 – Tribal Operations FY 2021 Budget Modification – Approved for an increase in tribal support of \$25,350.07 for space costs.

108 – Internal Services Buildings – USDA FY 2021 and FY 2022 Budget Modifications – 2021 Budget modification approved to increase expenses and increase other revenue \$32,320.40 with no effect on tribal support. 2022 Budget modification approved to increase expenses and increase other revenue \$32,320.40 with no effect on tribal support.

109 – White Pine Lodge Store and White Pine Lodge Motel FY 2021 Budget Modifications – Store budget modification approved for changes to the personnel sheet and decrease in net income of \$16,091.64 with no effect on tribal support. Motel budget modification approved for changes to the personnel sheet and decrease in net income of \$82,244.82 with no effect on tribal support.

110 – FY 2021 Governmental Capital Purchases Modification Internal Repairs and Maintenance – Approved for \$65,000 from the fund balance for the Child Advocacy Center.

111 – FY 2021 Governmental Capital Purchases Modification Administration Building – Approved for an increase of \$110,000 from fund balance for

administration building.

112 – FY 2021 Governmental Capital Purchases Modification Manistique Health Center – Approved for an increase of \$50,000 from fund balance.

113 – Internal Services Buildings-Advocacy Resource Center FY 2021 and FY 2022 Budget Modifications – 2021 Modification approved to increase expenses, increase other revenue funds \$21,412.42 and increase fund balance \$1,712.62 with no effect on tribal support. 2022 Modification approved same reasons with same amounts.

114 – ACFS – Culturally Specific Underserved FY 2021 and FY 2022 Budget Modifications – Approved to reallocate expenses and to change the personnel sheet with no effect on tribal support.

115 – ACFS – Victim's Assistance FY 2021 and FY 2022 Budget Modifications – Approved to correct the funding source from the State of Michigan to Department of Justice and reallocate expenses with no effect on tribal support.

116 – ACFS – Tribal Governments FY 2021 and FY 2022 Budget Modifications – Approved 2021 modification for a decrease in U.S. Department

of Justice funding of \$6,575.44 with no effect on tribal support. Approved 2022 modification for an increase in Department of Justice funding of \$49,261.73 with no effect on tribal support.

117 – ACFS – Family Violence Establishment of FY 2022 Budget – Approved for U.S. Department of Health and Human Services funding of \$173,000 with no effect on tribal support.

118 – Traditional Medicine FY 2021 Budget Modification – Approved to change the personnel sheet with no effect on tribal support.

119 – Sault Health Center Admin, Emergency Preparedness and Third-Party Revenue FY Budget Modifications – Approved admin modification to change the personnel sheet, increase expenses and increase third party revenue funds \$30,541.14. Approved emergency preparedness modification to change the personnel sheet, increase expenses and increase State of Michigan revenue funding \$10,929. Approved third-party revenue modification for a decrease of \$30,541.14.

Resolutions and voting records may be viewed in their entirety at www.saulttribe.com.

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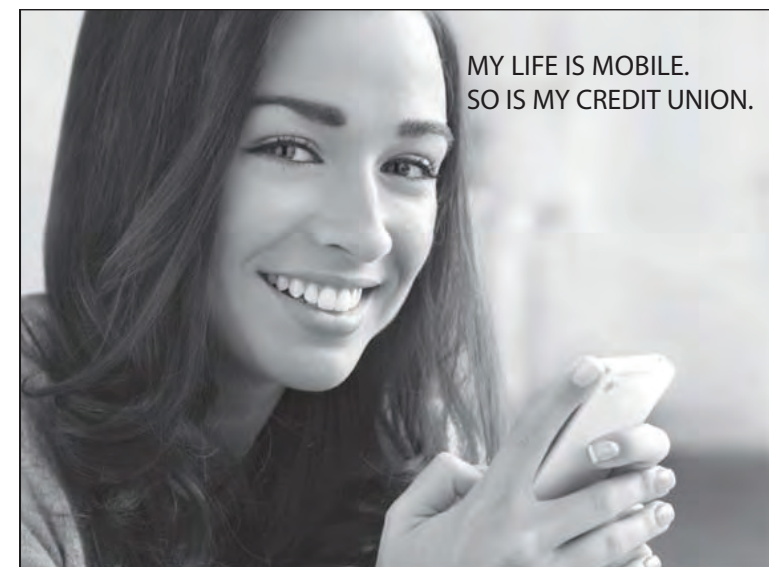
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Native youth leaders meet with White House

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Aspen Institute's Center for Native American Youth (CNAAY), the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) and United National Indian Tribal Youth, Inc. (UNITY) hosted a listening session with White House leadership on April, 30. This virtual listening session amplified priorities, recommendations and solutions from American Indian youth across the country.

This conversation was led by youth leaders, Jonathan Arakawa (Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe), Isabel Coronado (Mvskoke (Creek) Nation), Jessica Lambert (Choctaw Nation), Owen Oliver (Chinook Isleta Pueblo) and Kiera Toya (Jemez Pueblo).

"To meet with Native American youth within the first 100 days of offices speaks volumes to Biden/Harris administration's commitment to Native American youth

and to Indian Country," said Nikki Pitrie, executive director of CNAAY.

Youth leaders were joined by special assistant to the president for Native Affairs, Libby Washburn (Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma), senior advisor for Intergovernmental Affairs, PaaWee Rivera (Pueblo of Pojoaque), Indian Water Rights Office Deputy Director Tracy Goodluck (Oneida) and White House Office of Public Engagement's Hannah Bristol.

Walking on...

STEVEN C. SEVERANCE

Steven Cal "Sevy" Severance, age 63, of Kincheloe, Mich., passed away on May 3, 2021, at War Memorial Hospital surrounded by his family.

He was born on June 20, 1957, in Woodbury, N.J., to the late Raymond C Severance and Joan Lee (Eddy) Karlson. Steve was a graduate of Newberry High School class of 1975.

He served in the United States Army. He retired from the MDOC where he made many lasting friendships. A proud member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians. He was also a member of the American Legion. He helped coach football and softball for Rudyard schools.

Steven was a kind man who loved to make people laugh. He had a great singing voice and was in the play South Pacific put on by the Sault Theatre workshop. His passions were classic movies and oldies music. An avid hunter and fisherman. Detroit sports were always on in his home. Lion, Tigers and Redwings, oh my.

Steven is survived by his wife, Cindy (Robbins) Severance, whom he married on March 16, 2001; children, Steven Lee Severance of Kincheloe, Jennifer (David) Woodruff of Wisconsin, Lori Jo Severance of Kincheloe, Melanie (Jeremy) Middleton of Kincheloe, Samantha Severance (TJ Burrows) and Alyson (Leer Sobie) Norris of Albion Mich.; grandchildren, Zachery, Alex, Colten and Finn Woodruff, Christian Tolliver, Cheyenne Severance Kelsie and Brianna Lyons, Kamdyn Causley, Landon and Malloreigh Severance, and one baby, Holden, due on or around his birthday; siblings, Ray (Vickie) Severance of Hessel, Lora (Patrick) McMahon of Kincheloe, Diane (Martin) Lehto of Newberry, William Karlson also of Newberry; special nieces and nephews who were in his heart; as well as great-nieces and nephews whom he adored. A plethora of cousins who were more like siblings.

He is preceded in death by his parents Raymond and Joan; his stepfather, Bill Karlson; and many aunts and uncles, whom he dearly loved.

Special mention of his border collie, Fergus, they spent every day together and had a very special bond.

Many thanks to the doctors and nurses in ICU at War Memorial Hospital who worked so hard. Their kindness and compassion will never be forgotten.

A memorial service took place on May 15, 2021, at the C.S. Mulder Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Steve's name can be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital or the Chippewa County Animal Shelter. Condolences may be left online at www.csmulder.com.

LEE N. MARSHALL

Lee Nelson Marshall, age 81,

of Sparta, went home to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on May 6, 2021.

Lee was an amazing husband, father, grandfather and friend to many. Lee loved to spend his time with his wife, three sons and their wives, 10 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Lee enjoyed helping others, playing tennis, cutting wood, working in the garden, walking, riding bikes and fellowshiping with others.

Lee was raised in Bliss, Mich., and was the third oldest of nine children. He was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Lee was a graduate of Pellston High School and attended iron workers trade school at Ludington Junior College. He was a journeyman iron worker for most of his career and retired from construction work in 2006.

He is lovingly remembered by his wife, Sandra (Oele); sons, Ryan (Angie) and children Trevor, Sydney, Logan, and Alexa; Kyle (Kristel) and children Cody and Kasey; Travis (Becky) Katelyn and son Hayden, Alyssa (Devin) Simkins, Travis and Kourtney; brothers, Clark Marshall, Kenton (Sonya) Marshall; sisters, Mary Ellen Marshall, Lorelee (Dave) Dankert and Valorie Dickson; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Jerry and Trudy Oele, Ronald Oele, Tim and Mary Oele, Barb and LeRoy Johnson, Luanne and John Hoekzema; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Lee and Ruby (Malory) Marshall; brother, Doug Marshall; sisters, Constance and Robin Marshall.

A graveside service will take place on Friday, May 28, from 2-4 p.m. at the Bliss Township Cemetery. Those who wish may make memorial contributions to Feeding America West Michigan, 864 West River Center Drive NE, Comstock Park, MI 49321, www.feedwm.org.

LINDA L. SAVOIE

Linda Lee (Mastaw) Savoie, age 63, of Roseville, Mich., passed away on Dec. 13, 2020, at Ascension Macomb Oakland Hospital in Warren, Mich. She was born on March 11, 1957, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., to William J. Mastaw and Mary D. (Bell) Mastaw.

Linda is survived by the love of her life, Ken Savoie; her three sons, Steve (Zena) Savoie, Curt Savoie and Jamie Hammel; daughter-in-law, Nicole Curtis and Eric (Sarah) Savoie. Seven grandchildren, Logan, Zaylie, Kynan, Casey, McKenzie, Samantha and Morgan; siblings,

Harvey (Lisa) Bell, Diane (Foster) Boutilier, Wayne (Annette) King, Bill Mastaw, Shelly Mastaw, Ronda (George) Mastaw; in-laws, Linda (Ed) Stafford, Jean (Dan) Cadotte and sister-in-law Cathy Savoie; and many nieces and nephews who respected and loved her deeply; Linda's second family, Richard and Beverly Campbell and family; her dearest and closest friends, Maureen Burke-Weller and Cathy Wibby-Bailey, Debra Stewart, Sandra Santiago-Foldi, Kim Keyandwy, Donna Moses and many more special friends.

Linda was preceded in death by her parents; father-in-law, Chuck Savoie; mother-in-law, Kay Savoie; brother-in-law Don Savoie; and great-niece Ella Weisenburger.

Linda lived and loved her life as a wife, mother, grandmother, aister, auntie and daughter to the fullest. All who knew Linda were blessed with her loving, gentle, kind, giving, unselfish, compassionate personality. She always made you feel like the most important person when she was with you and would always greet you with a big smile and open arms. Linda enjoyed watching her grandchildren excel and always made time to enjoy their activities. She loved every one of them to the moon and beyond. Linda was an avid animal lover and loved her fur baby Koda. She was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Her hobbies were bingo, casino, playing cards, festivals, volunteering and the gift of laughter. Linda spent time and volunteered at the South Eastern Michigan Indian Center in Centerline, Mich. She always tried to be active in our Indigenous culture, attending powwows, Native protests for our land and water and learning our traditional ways.

She referred to the Upper Peninsula as "home" and enjoyed her time here to visit her family and friends in Sault Ste. Marie and talked about moving back home after her husband retired. If you asked Linda about her three sons her face would light up with a proud smile.

We would like to thank the following: the doctors and staff who cared for Linda at Ascension Oakland Macomb Hospital; the South Eastern Michigan Indian Center for all their support in preparing Linda for her journey and the Faulman and Walsh Funeral Home in Fraser, Mich.

Thank you/miigwetch to everyone who prayed for Linda and our family during this difficult time.

Cremation has taken place. Due to the COVID pandemic, services will be held Friday, June 25 and June 26th, 2021.

A traditional ceremony will take place after the 5 p.m. meal Friday, June 25, at our Niigaanagiziik Ceremonial Building, 11 Ice Circle in Sault Ste. Marie. A Catholic Mass will take place at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 26, at St. Mary's Pro-Cathedral, 337 Maple Street in Sault Ste. Marie with a luncheon following.

WILMA M. LaPLAUNT McVARISH

Wilma Mary LaPlaut McVarish passed away on April 20, 2021, at the age of 81. She was born in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., on Jan. 2,

1940, and moved to the Sacramento area in the early 1960s. After working for the State of California for over 30 years, she retired in 2002.

She is survived by her husband, Frank "Mac" McVarish; children, Theresa (spouse Mike), Greg (spouse Jeannie) and Rob; and her loving grandchildren.

JOHN A. MITCHELL, JR.

John A. Mitchell, Jr., 1966-2021, passed away on April 12, 2021, at the age of 54.

Predeceased by his grandparents, Luella and Lawrence Mitchell and Walpurga Sammer; and father-in-law, Richard Aikin.

Survived by his wife, Tracey Mitchell; children, Austin and Jessica Mitchell, and let us not forget Montana; parents, Jack and Heide Mitchell; brother, Scott (Kim) Mitchell; mother-in-law, Mary Alice Aikin; brothers-in-law, Michael (Laura) Aikin, Timothy (Theresa) Aikin and Ronald (Melissa) Aikin; several nieces, nephews and a community of dear friends.

Our hearts are broken beyond words. John earned his wings for all that he did on this earth and in service to his community. Most importantly, his love and devotion for his family and friends. John had a bigger than life smile and personality. He leaves behind his brothers in blue, who were like his second family after serving 26 years by their side. He was an exceptional police officer and even better man. John was a Sault Tribe member and was very proud of being a tribal member.

Friends called on April 15, 2021 at Miller Funeral and Cremation Services, Inc. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Breast Cancer Coalition in John's memory.

SANDRA E. GIBBONS

Sandra E. Gibbons, age, 47, of Christmas, died April 16, 2021, at UPHS Marquette from injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident. She was born on Feb. 27, 1974, in Detroit, Mich., to Robert and Mary (Goudreau) Gibbons.

Sandy was raised in the central Upper Peninsula and graduated from Gwinn High School in 1992. She had a passion for the outdoors and worked in the tourism industry in Skagway, Alaska, and in Oklahoma. Sandra returned to

the U.P. and earned her associate degree from Ferris State University and was presently attending Northern Michigan University at the time of her death. Sandy's other employment included working at the casinos in Christmas, Manistique and Big Rapids, and she also drove for ALTRAN. Sandra was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

She enjoyed family and treasured childhood memories of camping. Sandy especially adored spending time with her nieces who made her feel like the luckiest aunt around. She enjoyed photography, riding her motorcycles, hunting, fishing (especially with Kyley) and walking her dogs. Sandy was a successful friend of Bill W. for over 30 years. In keeping with Sandra's loving and generous spirit, the decision was made to donate life through her organ and tissue donation.

She is survived by her parents, Bob and Mary Gibbons; her sister, Merry Dawn Gibbons; nieces, Gabby, Montanna and Kyley; uncles and aunts, Patrick Gibbons, Michael Gibbons, Debbie (Bob) Alders, Marlene (Chum) Malnar, Tony Goudreau and Kim (Tom) Roman; and numerous cousins.

Sandy was preceded in death by her grandparents, Beth and Mike Gibbons and Joe and Dorothy Goudreau; aunt, Sandra Gibbons; and uncles, Tom Gibbons and Joe Goudreau.

A memorial service will be scheduled at a later date and Sandra's obituary and online guestbook may be found online at bowermanfuneralhome.net.

CLIFFORD F. STEWART

Clifford Fredrick "Rick" Stewart, 73, passed away on April 29, 2021, at War Memorial Hospital. Rick was born on Dec. 31, 1947, to Fredrick and Helen Stewart. He was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

He spent many years working in construction as a very skilled carpenter. In his early years, he also enjoyed working with stained glass art and created some beautiful pieces. He enjoyed spending time in his garage working on vehicles, where friends would often stop by just to visit or to get his help on a mechanical issue they were having. He enjoyed spending time with friends and family and would help anyone in need. He served in the U.S. Army. Rick loved riding his Harley Davidson and continued to ride with friends until a few years ago. He loved his cat Taylor and his dog Jethro, who passed away unexpectedly.

Rick is survived by his three children, Fredrick (Crystal) Stewart, Melissa Stewart and Lona Stewart, step-daughter Stephanie Leask through a previous marriage to Angela Leask with whom he maintained friendship;

See "Walking on," page 10



Gwaiak Miicon in state Supreme Court conference

BY RICK SMITH

Michigan Supreme Court Justice Elizabeth T. Clement moderated a live-streamed virtual news conference on April 15 to announce the publication of the *Fiscal Year 2020 Problem-Solving Courts Annual Report – Solving Problems, Saving Lives*, and to hear testimony from problem-solving court authorities, which involved Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Tribal Court Chief Judge Jocelyn Fabry. The report, which can be found in its entirety online at courts.mi.gov/pscreport, is a 44-page document on details about the 199 problem-solving courts in the state including their compositions, types, functions and successes.

According to the report, problem-solving courts, or treatment courts, use intense supervision and monitoring along with treatment for substance use disorders or mental illness. The various types of treatment courts have undergone a lot of scrutiny through research to determine what results in positive change among offenders graduating from the programs. Program components were developed to get at the underlying reasons why offenders repeatedly turn to crime. An example the report cites is that of offenders suffering with drug or alcohol addiction who might not benefit from jail or a standard probationary term when they are not required to engage in treatment for their substance use disorder. The same would be true with offenders who have untreated mental illness and would not benefit from jail or other punitive measures when their mental illness is undiagnosed. Ignorance of the reasons people commit crime often



Screenshot of Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Tribal Court Chief Judge Jocelyn Fabry reporting on the Gwaiak Miicon program during the Michigan Supreme Court news conference on Zoom.

results in those people returning to crime.

According to a release about the conference, the report reflects that people graduate through adult drug court programs are nearly two times less likely to be convicted of a new offense within three years of entering the programs. Further, sobriety court graduates were more than three times less likely to be convicted in the same amount of time.

Justice Clement, who also serves as the problem-solving courts' liaison, said, "Even during the pandemic, Michigan's problem-solving courts have continued connecting with participants and delivering needed services to solve problems and save lives," said Clement, who also serves as the state's problem-solving courts liaison. She added, "This new data [in the report] reinforces the amazing work being conducted in these courts to give people who are

struggling a second chance, to strengthen families and to safeguard communities across the state."

Chief Judge Fabry said the pandemic definitely impacted the tribe's two problem-solving courts – the Adult Criminal Healing to Wellness Program and the Family Healing to Wellness Program, also known as the alcohol and drug remediation service, Gwaiak Miicon. She explained the programs are built on foundations of accountability and support, and so much of that pre-pandemic accountability and support occurred in-person, through things like client meetings with probation officers, drug screening and testing, frequent court hearings, in-person therapy and in-person support group meetings. "But, just like every other sector of society," said Fabry, "the human contact portion of our Healing to Wellness programs took a drastic hit – at least in the very beginning of the pandemic. But the team's commitment to the participants didn't change, it just looked a little different for a while in the ways it was put into action."

As Fabry described it, the whole Gwaiak Miicon program along with partner organizations never had to pause services after the declaration of the pandemic state of emergency in March 2020 as they were able to shift operations platforms online, mainly via the online conference portal Zoom and smart phones. The Health to Wellness programs transitioned to online hearings within about two weeks after the emergency declaration. Behavioral Health took therapy services online via telemedicine portals and Wellbriety,

Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous meetings also shifted to Zoom. Further, the court secured one-time funding from the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Office of Tribal Justice Support to acquire smart phones and minutes for phones for people going through the Health to Wellness programs who needed them so they could still access services during the pandemic.

In short, the Gwaiak Miicon program never ceased functioning during the pandemic, but shifted to the virtual world to carry out the missions. "As hard as the adjustment was on everyone, it made us look at new ways of using technology to benefit participants going forward," said Fabry. "Using technology can help avoid barriers for people engaging in services, like transportation or scheduling. For example, the participants are now able to attend support group meetings online at any time, so that is easier to work into their schedules, and they can be attending a meeting with people from all over the world."

In her portion of the news conference, Fabry reported she presides over the tribe's Adult Criminal Healing to Wellness Court as well as the Family Healing to Wellness Court. She explained the Healing to Wellness courts operate on the traditional drug court model but is adapted to serve needs of the tribal community. The tribe's Adult Criminal Healing to Wellness Court established in 2000 is one of the oldest in Michigan and the Family Healing to Wellness Court opened in 2013.

She defined a Healing to Wellness Court as a very struc-

tured treatment court program found in tribal courts where the phrase "healing to wellness" is used to convey healing is the beginning foundation of an ongoing journey. "We tell people when they come in, 'We're going to be all up in your business,' because we are, but we do that to help them, although they don't always believe that in the beginning, I think they come to learn that along the way," said Fabry.

She added the Healing to Wellness courts successfully meet goals of increased public safety through reduced recidivism, instilling sobriety in families, individual healing and long-term sobriety. Fabry explained the courts, just like other problem-solving or treatment courts, get to the reasons behind why someone appears before them, not just the offenses for which one is accused. "Every person's journey in a Healing to Wellness Court, again very structured with a high degree of accountability, is individualized, it's designed to provide the services and support that that person needs to meet their needs rather than some cookie-cutter approach," she said.

The courts borrow from traditional tribal problem-solving methods relying heavily on the tribe's Language and Culture Department, Traditional Medicine Program along with Behavioral Health Department services. Michigan tribes operate nine different Healing to Wellness courts for cases involving adult criminal, juvenile and family treatment cases. The courts also work hand-in-hand with state and federal counterparts to the benefit of tribal citizens and communities at large.

Letter to the editor: *EUP churches need your support*

I would like to answer many questions I have been asked about the pandemic, and also about the religious in our community.

It was Dec. 15, when I became ill. It was a few days later that I tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. I became quite angry due to the fact that I was beyond careful, lived by myself and had no contact or visiting, only going to the grocery store or to pick up medications. Holy church on Sunday. I live in faith, not fear, but am cautious. I was hit hard and very ill. In my prayers and tears one evening, I suddenly received a most profound and magnificent miracle! It astonished me and at first, I was in disbelief! I shared it with only a few people who are respectful to that experience. I received many messages from that gift of life that Jesus saved me through the intercession of the Blessed Mother. My religious leaders and Native mentors were extremely pleased and accepting of what I explained happened to me.

It was disappointing to meet the negative individuals who prefer to spew doubt and discount anything that is pure and filled with goodness. If they don't see it, they don't believe it. Hmm, sounds like someone else we've heard of, guess where? Right, it's in the holy bible! Imagine that! I

pray for them and let it go.

The unkind comments of some pertaining to our amazing priests in the area is when I drew the line. We as Native people respect our pipe carriers and medicine people, like the wonderful Dorothy Sam. The most revered leader of our eastern district and drum teachings. We admire her for all she has suffered to bring us from many states and countries. The most important are lessons and experiences to pass on to the children, youth is our future. It is heartwarming to see all the young people enjoy the ceremonies and gathering in dance and song. Miigwech, Dorothy!

The same appreciation should go out to our priests, St. Joseph's pastor is Father Mike, St. Mary's pastor Father Nick, and Father Dominic has taken Brother John's three parishes of St. Isaac Jogues, Holy Family and St. Kateri.

They are striving to bring the youth back into the teachings and give them a sense of worth and importance by listening, and hearing what is being said. We as older parishioners, have had many years of learning, we know how and what to help our children learn. Yet some will complain that too much time is spent on the young people. Really, are you kidding me? If you need an explanation, ask me, I would be

delighted to enlighten you and engage in informative discussions on exactly what our priests have been doing to help your children remain positive through restrictive times that give them little hope of a normal life. No sports, no junior police academy, no community gatherings for graduations, birthdays or anniversaries.

The depression that has gripped the young is frightful. If you need to pay to hear a great motivational speaker save yourself some time and listen to the homilies of those highly education magnificent men that give their life to do the Creator's work as our gifted messengers, to assist all who wish to understand the end times of our lives. Talk with them, you may learn something and enjoy their knowledge. The one thing Brother John always taught was love, the love of Jesus! That was his first words at his anniversary a few years ago. Many want it their way, but it is the Creator's way that is the true way and what one must accept. The churches have been here, and the priests are changing Mass times to accommodate all who have questions. Father Mike at St. Joseph's will have a 1 p.m. Sunday Mass later in the month for the summer. Hopefully it will bring people back to cherish being able to go to church again.

I said the churches are here. Well, sadly one isn't. Our beloved first Native American Saint Kateri, a church named for her, recently burned down. It is a most devastating blow to Father Dominic and all the hard work and long hours he has put into giving the people a place to praise God in. The ability to share sacrament's there, young and old, will not happen now. It is a time of great sadness and I implore you to support Father Dominic

in all ways to help that parish to recover.

I must give respect to my parents, Cyril and Isabelle Allard, for the great teachers of our faith and who helped us with understanding why we believe. They were our gifts, and the gifts from our wonderful Creator are Fr. Mike, Fr. Nick, and Fr. Dominic. I sincerely hope you all take advantage of what we have before it is gone.

God bless you all!
Jackie Allard

Broadband benefit started for folks with low-income

The Federal Communications Commission recently announced the start of the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program. As of May 12, 2021, eligible low-income households may enroll to receive a monthly discount off the cost of broadband service from an approved provider. Eligible households can enroll through an approved provider or at <https://getemergencybroadband.org>.

The Emergency Broadband Benefit Program will provide eligible households with discounts of up to \$50 a month for broadband service, and up to \$75 a month if the household is on tribal lands. It also will provide a one-time discount of up to \$100

on a computer or tablet for eligible households.

For more information about the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program, please visit fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit.

Participating providers can assist households in applying for the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program through the National Verifier or through the provider's own application process. To view a list of participating providers in each state, visit fcc.gov/emergency-broadband-benefit-providers.

Providers will also provide a one-time \$100 discount toward the purchase of a computer, laptop or tablet.

Sgt. Detective Pins retires from law enforcement



Photos by Brenda Austin

After 27-plus years in law enforcement, Sgt. Detective Michael Pins retired effective Friday, April 23, 2021. Sault Tribe Law Enforcement hosted a retirement celebration in his honor to show their appreciation for his years of service and dedication to Sault Tribe and its communities. The celebration was held at the Sault Kewadin Casino in Dream Maker's Theater on April 23. Above, Sgt Detective Pins (front and center) and his "brothers and sisters" at Sault Tribe Law Enforcement gather during his retirement celebration.



Officer Alan Teneyck offers his support to Sgt. Detective Pins as he signs off on his last shift with Sault Tribe Law Enforcement.



Chief of Police Robert Marchand with Sgt. Detective Pins.



Andy Kabelman (left) and Officer Teneyck (right) built the shadow box Sgt. Detective Pins is holding. Inside is a U.S. flag and past and current STLE department patches.



Sgt. Detective Pins and his wife Stephanie Pins.

Advocacy Resource Center holds Denim Day competition for Sexual Assault Awareness Month

The Advocacy Resource Center hosted a Denim Day competition in honor of April's Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Denim Day is a campaign created in response to a sexual assault case in Italy in the late 1990s in which a woman's clothing was a factor in the conviction of a sexual assault case.

Wearing jeans on Denim Day has become a symbol of protest against erroneous and destructive attitudes about sexual assault. In this rape prevention education campaign, we asked community members, elected officials and tribal offices to make a social statement with their fashion by wearing jeans and teal (the color dedicated to Sexual Assault Month) as a visible means of protest

against the misconceptions that surround sexual assault. Simply put, your clothes do not determine consent.

The competition offered a pizza party to the group with the most denim and teal, and ARC outreach bags filled with promotional items for individual participants. Each team did a wonderful job displaying their denim and teal, making the final decision a difficult one. A decision was made to choose not just one but three winners for the office pizza party. The winners included Sault Tribe Human Resources Department, Sault Tribe Housing Authority and Sault Tribe Early Head Start.

The ARC was pleased with the results and hopes the event will grow each year. Chi Miigwech to participants!



Sault Tribe Housing Denim Day participants.



Maggie Gaus, ACFS



Jeanne Kennedy of Rapid River



ACFS Kincheloe office participants.



Advocacy Resource Center staff.



Liza McGahey, Bay Mills Survivor Response Center.



Austin Lowes, Unit 1 board member



Advocacy Resource Center team members located in the tribe's administration offices.



ACFS Manistique office participants.



Human Resources wearing their denim blues for the competition.



Sault Tribe Early Head Start participants.



Participants at the ACFS main office in Sault Ste. Marie.

Sault Tribe Law Enforcement and Conservation

BY ROBERT MARCHAND,
SAULT TRIBE CHIEF OF POLICE

Inland hunting, fishing and gathering – Sault Tribe’s Natural Resource Department will be conducting the elk and bear lottery drawings in the first part of June. Reminders: if you are drawn for an elk permit, Natural Resources staff will contact you. If you want to find out if you were drawn for a bear permit, please contact Sault Tribe Law Enforcement (STLE) June 11 or after. You must be at least 10 years of age to hunt bear and elk and if you are drawn for either, if you have not yet renewed your 2021 inland harvest licenses, you will be required to do so before your tag will be issued.

Please remember that, regardless of activity, if you held a 2020 license, you are required to submit a 2020 harvest report before you are able to apply for and receive your 2021 licenses.

These reports are provided each year when you get your licenses, but STLE has them available in the Sault office and they are available online. These reports are required to be submitted, per Tribal Code Chapter 21, Section 21.402 titled Harvest License Annual Report, whether you engage in the allowable activity or not.

Spring turkey season began April 15 and ends June 15, 2021. Otter season in the Upper Peninsula ends May 15 and, in the lower peninsula, it ended April 15. Beaver season in the Upper Peninsula ends May 15 and, in the lower peninsula, ended April 15.

License holders have two weeks after the end of the season to have their animals sealed. For more information about this, please contact the Natural Resources Department at (906) 632-6132. Coyote season does not end, and there is no bag limit for this species.

Please be sure you are reviewing your rules and regulations to ensure you are engaging in allowable activity, regardless of which license you hold. Sault Tribe Law Enforcement continues to get calls asking if members can use their inland license to fish on the Great Lakes. The answer is, and has been, no. For members to fish the Great Lakes in Sault Tribe’s 1836 Treaty area, you must have one of the following: Sault Tribe subsistence or subsistence and gillnet license; a State of Michigan fishing license; or you are authorized per CORA Code, Section XVII to use your tribal membership card by following State of Michigan rules.

Great Lakes licenses: Commercial and subsistence – STLE has been receiving quite a few calls regarding subsistence gillnet fishing specifically related to whether two gillnet license holders can use the same boat, either at the same time or one right after the other. CORA Code, Section XIX: Subsistence Fishing, subsection (f) states: Subsistence gill netting is



limited to one (1) net of three hundred (300) feet or less per vessel per day, except that in the St. Mary’s River, as described in Section VIII (a), a single gill net shall not exceed one hundred (100) feet in length. The tying together of single gill nets to form a gang of nets is prohibited.

Commercial fishermen are required to call and schedule an

appointment to renew or obtain a captain’s or helper’s license. In order for Sault Tribe Law Enforcement to obtain accurate information, and be able to process licenses timely, captains and helpers must call themselves to provide licensing staff with current and accurate information. We will no longer accept appointments made by anyone other than the license holder.

Even through the pandemic, your responsibility to submit monthly (or bi-weekly if you fall under the specific requirements under commercial) reports was never suspended. Please make sure if you hold the 2021 license that you are submitting the required reports by the deadline. Monthly reports are due no later than the 10th of every month. For example, for the month of May, 2021, your

report is due no later than June 10. It must be received in Sault Tribe Law Enforcement’s office by the due date. These reports are a requirement of CORA Code, Section XXII – Harvest Report and Sampling.

General Information – Sault Tribe Law Enforcement treaty licensing office will be closed in observance of Memorial Day on Monday, May 31, 2021.

When tribal members obtain these licenses, it is understood that they will educate themselves on the rules and regulations associated with exercising their treaty rights. Sault Tribe makes all tribal laws accessible on their website for easy access and reference. If members are unclear on any section of any treaty rights codes, we encourage them to contact Sault Tribe Law Enforcement and ask to speak to

an officer. They are here to help our members understand these regulations and how they are enforced.

Tribal laws that regulate treaty licenses are available online at www.saulttribe.com, Government, Tribal Code: Chapter 21 and 23 regulate Inland Hunting, Fishing, and Gathering activity. Chapter 20 and CORA code regulate subsistence, subsistence gill net and commercial fishing activities. Maps, applications and other resource materials can be found on the website by selecting Membership Services, Natural Resources, and either click the downloads link to the left, or at the bottom of the page, in red letters – For Applications Click Here.

If you have questions regarding treaty licensing requirements, call (906) 635-6065.

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"America the Beautiful" initiative presented

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Biden-Harris administration recently outlined a vision for how the United States can work collaboratively to conserve and restore the lands, waters and wildlife that support and sustain the nation. The recommendations are contained in a U.S. Department of the Interior report outlining a locally led and voluntary nationwide conservation goal to conserve 30 percent of U.S. lands and waters by 2030.

The report calls for a decade-long effort to support locally led and voluntary conservation and restoration efforts across public, private, and Tribal lands and waters in order to create jobs and strengthen the economy's foundation; tackle the climate and nature crises; and address inequitable access to the outdoors.

The report, submitted to the National Climate Task Force, was developed by the U.S. departments of the Interior, Agriculture and Commerce and the White House Council on Environmental Quality. It outlines eight principles that should guide the nationwide effort, including a pursuit of collaborative approaches; a commitment to supporting the voluntary conservation efforts of farmers, ranchers and fishers; and honoring tribal sover-

eignty and private property rights.

"The president's challenge is a call to action to support locally led conservation and restoration efforts of all kinds and all over America, wherever communities wish to safeguard the lands and waters they know and love," write Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo and White House Council on Environmental Quality Chair Brenda Mallory in the report. "Doing so will not only protect our lands and waters but also boost our economy and support jobs nationwide."

Based on feedback gathered in the administration's first 100 days, the report identifies six priority areas for the administration's early focus, investments, and collaboration:

- Creating more parks and safe outdoor opportunities in nature-deprived communities.
- Supporting tribally led conservation and restoration priorities.
- Expanding collaborative conservation of fish and wildlife habitats and corridors.
- Increasing access for outdoor recreation.
- Incentivizing and rewarding the voluntary conservation efforts

of fishers, ranchers, farmers and forest owners.

• Creating jobs by investing in restoration and resilience projects and initiatives, including the Civilian Climate Corps.

The Biden-Harris administration is already taking steps to support outdoor recreation and equitable access to the outdoors:

• In late April, USDA expanded the Conservation Reserve Program by offering new incentives, higher rental rates and more focused attention on sensitive lands with a goal of enrolling four million acres and capturing 3.6 million metric tons of CO2 equivalent in this voluntary conservation program.

• Recently, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced a proposal for the largest expansion in recent history of hunting and sport fishing opportunities for game species across 2.1 million acres at 90 national wildlife refuges and on the lands of one national fish hatchery.

• The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) recently announced the expansion of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, nearly tripling the size of the sanctuary and protecting 14 reefs and banks that are habitat for recreationally important fish.

• In the coming days, the National Park Service will announce \$150 million in funding for the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program, which helps build parks in underserved communities.

• NOAA is working in partnership with the State of Connecticut to create a living classroom for education, research and recreation by designating a National Estuarine Research Reserve in Long Island Sound. The final designation paperwork is expected by January 2022, which will make it the 30th estuary reserve in the national system.

To help measure and track progress toward the nation's first conservation goal, the report calls for the establishment of an inter-agency working group, led by the U.S. Geological Survey, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and NOAA in partnership with other land and ocean management agencies. The working group will develop the American

Conservation and Stewardship Atlas, a tool that will better reflect the voluntary contributions of farmers, ranchers, forest owners and private landowners; the contributions of fishery management councils; and other existing conservation designations on lands and waters across federal, state, local, tribal and private lands and waters across the nation.

In line with Executive Order 14008, agencies developed the recommendations after hearing from tribal leaders, governors and their staff, members of Congress and their staff, county officials, state elected officials, state fish and wildlife agencies, leaders on equity and justice in conservation policy, environmental advocacy organizations, hunting and fishing organizations, regional fisheries management councils, farming and ranching organizations, trade associations, forestry representatives, outdoor recreation businesses and users, seafood industry and others.

The family of the late Richard Hollowell would like to express our gratitude to our tribal community for all the kindness and condolences shown to our family during our time of grief.

We are deeply appreciative of the flowers, cards, food and kind words of love and support.

With sincere gratitude,
Chi miigwech

Walking on continued...

From "Walking on," page 9

11 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren; sisters, Pamela (Larry) Leask, Kim (Jim) Shea, Alice "Diane" Bare and Lona Taylor; and his brother, Anton "Tony" (Connie) Stewart; as well as numerous nieces and nephews. Rick is also survived by a very special friend, Peggy Miller, who helped to ensure his final days were comfortable.

Rick was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, William "Bill" and David; and sisters, Paula and Terry.

Rick's family would like to thank Medilodge staff for taking such good care of him while he was there; War Memorial Hospital Emergency Room staff and Dr. Ockenfels who showed him and his family the utmost compassion in this difficult time; and the nurses on the second floor who made sure that Rick and his family were comfortable during his last days.

A memorial service was held May 3 at C.S. Mulder Funeral Home.

Condolences may be left online at www.csmulder.com

LEONARD H. VALENTINE

Leonard H. Valentine passed away peacefully on March 28, surrounded by his family in Cheboygan Mich. He was born on Oct. 19, 1938, in St. Ignace, Mich.,

to Leonard and Helen (Paquin) Valentine.

He grew up in St. Ignace and attended LaSalle High School. Following high school, Leonard joined the U.S. Army. After serving in the Army, he moved back to St. Ignace and began employment with Luedtke Engineering Company where he was employed until he retired.

Leonard was a strong, kind, loving and supportive man which was the foundation of his family. He had a love for the outdoors; no matter the season, he was outside fishing in the summer, along with a few rounds of golf; bird hunting in the fall, sitting in his deer blind or ice fishing in the winter. Nature was his favorite place.

Surviving Leonard is his wife, Sally; his children, Andrew (Ginger) Valentine, Sandy (Ed) Valentine and Tricia (Tony) Basanese; step-children, Dennis (Marianne) Alexander, Colleen (Mike) Tyler, Scott Alexander and Theresa (Charlie) Helsel; his grandchildren, Leisa, Lesley, Amanda, Michael James, Curtis, Brenden, Angelina, Charlie, Benjamin, Gina, Lia, Kate, Sarah, Michael, Cody, Conner, Sydney and Alex; his nieces, Lisa (Bob) Morrow, Cathy Howarth, Cheryl (Jeff) Brandau and Nephew James (Betty) Howarth.

He is preceded in death by his parents; sister, Helen Jean Howarth; daughter, Lesley Jo Valentine; and granddaughter, Laren Valentine.

A celebration of life service including a veteran's tribute will be planned at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be directed to Mackinac Animal Aid Association, P.O. Box 71, St. Ignace, MI 49781 or the ALS Association

P.O. Box 37022, Boone, Iowa 50037. To Plant Memorial Trees in memory, please visit sympathy.legacy.com.

RANDY S. FRANKLIN



Randy Scott Franklin, 58, born Sept. 24, 1962, lifetime resident in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., went to be with the Creator on March 14, 2021. He is preceded in death by his grandfather Luke Lafrenier, mother Janet Franklin, two brothers Robert (Skimpers) Franklin and Rodney A. Franklin, a niece Nicole Aube, and a great granddaughter Avani Rain.

Randy is survived by his father, Harold Belanger of Sugar Island, also one son, Scott A. Franklin of Sault Ste. Marie. Granddaughters: Kayla M. Franklin, Gizheday N. Matrious, Mariah Jones, and great granddaughter: Waawaate Oday. He is also survived by brothers, Ronald, Raymond, Ross, and Rick all of Sault Ste. Marie, one half-brother, Paul Cadreau of Kinross, Mich. One sister: Jan (Cis) (Boyd) Rhodes of Sugar Island and many nieces and nephews, and great nieces and nephews: Stephen Graper, Kristi Franklin, Ryan Franklin, Nichelle Franklin, Tennielle McLeod, Anthony Franklin, James Franklin, Janet

Franklin, Bradley Franklin, Raeann Franklin, Chelsea Franklin, Dustin Franklin, Brian Franklin, Cassandra Franklin, and Jay Cryderman.

Randy is a Sault Tribe member and has had many jobs in his career that ranged from a carpenter to a card dealer to a security guard. Always the fun-loving guy, he enjoyed playing guitar and singing. Randy enjoyed spending time with family and friends, fishing or hanging out playing cribbage. He enjoyed riding around and visiting others. His humor always had a way of making someone smile. He loved his son, and they spent his last days together. Visitation was held March 17, at the Sault Tribe Nigaanaagizhik Ceremonial Building and the Funeral Service was held March 18, 2021, with Father Romeo Cappella officiating. Clark Funeral Cremation Burial Services served the family. Messages may be sent to the family at www.rgalerfuneralhome.com.

DAVID E. HOLTHAM

David Edward Holtham, age 83, passed away April 24, 2021. He was born March 22, 1938 in Detroit, Mich., to Edith (St. Louis) and Robert Holtham of St. Ignace, Mich.

He grew up in St. Ignace and graduated from LaSalle High School where he excelled in sports. He married the love of his life, Rita, in 1960. Together they traveled the new bridge to the Lower Peninsula to find work and start a family. They settled in Lansing where Dave found work as a milkman for

Sealtest Dairy, then later retired from Domestic Linen Co.

After retiring the couple spent winters in Arizona where they developed many dear friendships. Dave loved sports: basketball, softball, bowling and golf. He played softball well into his seventies, both in Lansing and Arizona, until Parkinson's slowed him down to just golf. In 2018 Dave was inducted into the St. Ignace High School Hall of fame for his excellence in basketball. Dave was a member of the Sault Saint Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, St. Therese Parish, Teamsters Union, Fraternal Order of Eagles, and the St. Johns chapter of the Honda Gold Wing Motorcycle Club.

David's greatest joy was spending time with his family. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Rita (Robinson) Holtham; sons, Bob (Ronda) Holtham of Eaton Rapids, Chris (Kristine) Holtham of Lansing, Matt (Lynn) Holtham of Corunna, Damon (Angie) Holtham of Muskegon; grandchildren, Autumn, Matthew, Jamie, Josh, Nicholas, Amanda, Bailey; great grandchildren, Raelynn, Benjamin, Jensen, Rylee and Paige.

Funeral service took place on May 5 at St. Therese of Lisieux Parish in Lansing. The family received friends at the church and also on May 4 at Gorsline Runciman Funeral Homes in DeWitt. Pallbearers were Matthew Holtham, Nicholas Holtham, Joshua Holtham, Brian Cahill, Scott Bailey and Steve Dufresne. There will be a burial service in St. Ignace this summer.

Donations in honor of Dave may be made to Sparrow Hospice, PO Box 30480, Lansing, MI 48909.



EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic:

Are you at risk for Housing instability?

Are you facing eviction?

Are you behind on your rent or utilities?

Contact the Sault Tribe Housing Authority to learn more about the Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Monday thru Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST

Income eligible, members of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and households who rent homes any where in the United States may make application for assistance. Income eligibility is based on 80% of area median income.

Emergency Rental Assistance can provide funding to assist with:

- Rental Arrears
- Utility Arrears
- Current and Prospective Rent Payments
- Current and Prospective Utilities and Home Energy costs
- Other Housing Expenses incurred related to housing due, directly or indirectly, to COVID-19 that qualify for assistance under federal law

For more information or to make application contact:

Sault Tribe Housing Authority

154 Parkside

Kincheloe, Michigan 49752

(906) 495-1450 or 1-800-794-4072

Or email EmergencyRentalAssistanceProgram@saulttribe.net

Madeline Gupta graduates from high school

Madeline Gupta, a proud member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, will graduate from Pioneer High School, in Ann Arbor, on June 3, 2021. Madeline is the daughter of Samar and tribal member Toni Gupta, granddaughter of James and tribal member Theresa (White) Johnson, and maternal great granddaughter of John "Jack" and Alice (Corp) White, of St. Ignace.

Madeline is a 2021 Coca Cola Scholar. She is also a semi-finalist for the United States Presidential Scholar Program. Winners will be announced in the month of May.

Madeline centers her work around her Native American heritage. She is the Managing Editor for *Indigenizing the News*, a monthly publication focused on raising awareness for Indigenous issues and elevating Native voices. She was accepted to Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and



the University of Michigan. She will attend Yale University in the fall of 2021, where she is excited to be a part of the Association of Native Americans at Yale.

Meghanlata Gupta graduates from Yale University

Meghanlata Gupta will graduate with honors from Yale University on May 22, 2021. Her proud parents are Samar and tribal member, Toni (Johnson) Gupta. She is the granddaughter of James and tribal member Theresa (White) Johnson, and maternal great-granddaughter of John "Jack" and Alice (Corp) White. Her great-aunt was tribal member Ardith (White) Pope of St. Ignace. Meghan's life and academic work are grounded in her Anishinaabe identity, culture and connection to community and homeland.

At Yale, Meghan was the president of the Association of Native Americans at Yale. Her senior thesis discussed centering Indigenous stories and building solidarity through her publication *Indigenizing the News*. Meghan is also one of the co-founders of the Mishigami Journalism Project, a groundbreaking news partnership between *Indigenizing the News*



and the *Traverse City Record-Eagle*.

Meghan was awarded the Ertegun Graduate Scholarship in the Humanities. Ertegun scholars are selected to attend University of Oxford and are fully-funded to pursue a master's degree. She plans to study Native American histories in media. In the fall of 2022, she will attend Yale University Law School.

Walker graduates



Bryan and Mary McLean are proud to announce the college graduation of their daughter, Lena "Lenny" Marie Walker.

Lena is the granddaughter of Paul and Patricia Carpentier and she was a dual enrolled student at Bay Mills Community College and Lake Superior State University. She graduated with an associate degree in social work (LSSU), an associate degree in social sciences (BMCC), a bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in counseling and a minor in substance abuse counseling (LSSU).

During Lena's first year of college, she was in the Phi Sigma Sigma sorority and was also philanthropy chair. Lena is graduating with honors magna cum laude, Alpha Chi and Psi Chi which she was president. She also works for the Diane Peppler Resource Center as a legal advocate and is the Sexual Assault Response Team coordinator. Lena has also been busy with a couple of internships: the Native Justice Coalition as the outreach and organizing intern, and Hearthside Living Center as an undergraduate intern.

She plans to continue her education and complete her master's program in social work. Although social work is often a thankless career, Bryan and Mary are incredibly proud of Lena's hard work and determination to reach her educational and career goals as she strives to make the community a priority. Way to go Lena, we all love you very much!

Sault Tribe committee vacancies need filled

The following committees have vacant seats.

Sault Tribe members interested in filling these vacancies should submit one letter of intent and three letters of recommendation from other members to Joanne Carr or Linda Grossett, 523 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. Call (906) 635-6050 with any questions.

Anishinaabe Cultural Committee - six vacancies - three male (4-year term), three female (4-year term)

Child Welfare Committee - three vacancies (4-year term), one vacancy (expires May 23)

Conservation Committee - one vacancy - Fisheries (term expiring March 3, 2023)

Election Committee - four vacancies (4-year term)

Higher Education Committee - Two vacancies (4-year term)

Health Board - five vacancies (4-year term)

Housing Commission - one vacancy - Unit I (4-year term) one vacancy - Unit II (4-year term)

Special Needs/Enrollment Committee - six vacancies

(2-year term)

Elder Advisory Committee Unit I - Sault (4-year term), one regular vacancy and one alternate vacancy

Unit II - Hessel (4-year term), one alternate vacancy

Unit II - Naubinway (4-year term), one alternate vacancy

Unit III - St. Ignace (4-year term), one regular vacancy and one alternate vacancy

Unit IV - Manistique (4-year term), one alternate vacancy

Unit IV - Escanaba (4-year term) one regular vacancy and one alternate vacancy

Unit V - Munising (4-year term), one alternate vacancy

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

Elder Subcommittee

Unit I - Sault (4-year terms), two regular seat vacancies, two alternate seat vacancies

Unit II - Hessel (4-year terms), two regular seat vacancies, two alternate vacancies

Unit II - Newberry (4-year term), two regular seat vacancies, one alternate vacancy

Unit II - Naubinway (4-year

term), two alternate seat vacancies

Unit IV - Manistique (4-year term), two regular seat vacancies, one alternate vacancy

Unit IV - Escanaba (4-year term), two regular seat vacancies,

two alternate vacancies

Unit V - Munising (4-year term), two regular seat vacancies, one alternate seat vacancy

Unit V - Marquette (4-year term), three regular seat vacancies, one alternate seat vacancy

Officer Gardner celebrates 35 years with Sault Tribe Law Enforcement



Sault Tribe Law Enforcement Officer Samuel Gardner (center) was recognized recently for his 35 years of employment. Sault Tribe Unit I Representative Mike McKerchie (left) and Sault Tribe Chief of Police Robert Marchand, presented him with a certificate and flowers.

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Sault Tribe Thrive Business Directory

Thank you to all the Sault Tribe member-owned businesses who have reached out and contacted us so far. Another month of continued GROWTH! If your business is not listed, please contact us so we can get you or your business set up with our office and into the directory going forward. We will update the list as needed and republishing every month to ensure new members and changes are seen consistently. The Sault Tribe Thrive office is here to help any and all Sault Tribe member-owned businesses.

If you have not already please check out our new website and social media sites at <https://saulttribethrive.com> and <https://www.facebook.com/saulttribethrive>.

Sault Tribe Thrive Office: Info@saulttribethrive.com, (906) 635-6050, ext. 26121.

A Little Golden Studio Kaitlin Lenhard Lansing, MI 48826 (616) 902-0191 alittlegoldenstudio@gmail.com Photography/video and handmade gifts	(906) 786-5281 benoitglass@gmail.com Glass repair shop and locksmith	St. Ignace, MI 49781 (906) 643-9578 thecedarsmotel@aol.com Motel	(906) 748-1047 dwayne191@gmail.com Custom upholstery	Sewing repair shop residential and commercial	Herbal Lodge Nathan Wright Petoskey, MI 49770 (231) 622-9063 native14u@yahoo.com Herbal medicines and treatments
Allegra Roger Leask Traverse City, MI 49686 (231) 632-4448 roger@allegratc.com Marketing print mail	Big Bear Arena Tammy Graham Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 635-4785 tgraham@saulttribe.net Recreation center	Clear From Here Jennifer Jespersion North Hollywood, CA 91601 (818) 415-9025 jennifer.jespersion@mac.com Music clearance and consulting for film/television	Dance of the Sun Day Spa Dawn Cremeans Marquette, MI 49855 (906) 249-9084 hello@danceofthesun.com www.danceofthesun.com The holistic approach to personal care and wellness.	Floor Masters Art Derry Dafter, MI 49724 (906) 322-0252 art.derry@yahoo.com Flooring and carpet	Hilltop Bar/Restaurant Brandon/Tracy McKerchie Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 259-2621 mckerchiebrandon@yahoo.com Restaurant
American Dream Builders Gary Vallier Kalamazoo, MI 49009 (269) 365-1969 garyadbslm@hotmail.com Construction	Blondeau Construction Matthew Blondeau Marquette, MI 49855 (906) 362-6288 mattblondeau@gmail.com Residential Construction Company	Company K Ann Dailey Holt, MI 48842 (906) 322-2716 ann@companyk.us Sales arm of Ogitchidaa LLC.	DeMawating Development Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 495-2800 tgermain@saulttribe.net Property Management Company	Franks Place Dawn Bumstead Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 440-4457 dawn@franksplace.biz Restaurant	Horn's Odds and Ends Irene Horn St. Ignace, MI 49781 (906) 984-2189 imhorn517@gmail.com Antique, vintage and thrift store
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AndersonMedia906 Noah Anderson Grand Rapids, MI 49501 (906) 440-2238 https://www.noahanderson-media.com/ A Michigan based content creator	Bloom Co. Maddie Lockhart Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 205-0275 shop@bloomcosault.com Online Floral Designing for Every day, Events and Weddings.	Contain-A-Pet of EUP LLC Melinda Menard Dafter, MI 49724 (906) 290-0478 capofeup@yahoo.com Electronic pet fencing and dog training	Dream Catchers Consulting LLC Bill Pemble Williamston, MI 48895 (517) 243-2877 pemblew@gmail.com Business IT maintenance and management	Geo Shelter Michael DiAngelo Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A5A8 (705) 542-7208 mdiangelo@geoshelter.ca Steel homes and buildings	Innes Welding and Repair Mike Innes Brimley, MI 49715 (906) 440-5634 thepropmaster@hotmail.com Boat props and small metal working projects
Arbor Insight Scott Lavictor Ann Arbor, MI 48104 (734) 992-7267 https://www.arborinsight.com/ Conversation Management Software	Bonacci Contracting Carmine Bonacci Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 632-1425 Bonacci10@gmail.com Construction	Cottage UP Thomas Clark St. Ignace, MI 49781 (906) 298-2298 cottageup@outlook.com Vintage home decor retail store	Dress Up and Tuxedo Jody Bugay Escanaba, MI 49829 (906) 789-9796 Jody@dressup906.com Clothing outlet	Gitche Gumees Jewelry Gina Harmon Newberry, MI 49868 (906) 293-3625 ginavgc@gmail.com https://www.lakesuperiorpendants.com/index.php?page=Home Handcrafted Lake Superior Agate, Stone & Fossil Pendants	Irwin Group LLC Mitch Irwin Lansing, MI 48826 (517) 896 6875 irwinmitch@gmail.com Business development, investment and consulting
Barbeaux Fisheries Paul Barbeaux De Tour Village, MI 49725 (906) 297-5969 barbeauxfish@gmail.com Fishing	Burnside Creations Lisa Burnside Hessel, MI 49745 (906) 430-7323 Burnsidecreations1@gmail.com Handmade crafts	Creative Change Alan Barr Manistique, MI 49854 (906) 286-1922 alanb@creativechange.org Communication/job performance services	Eagle HVAC Services LLC Bryan Goudreau Garden, MI 49835 (906) 450-0408 groundsourcehtg@gmail.com Residential/Commercial heating/cooling service and installation	Gitchi Enterprises Mike Brown Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 203-4491 mikeborwnsells@gmail.com Used car/Mobile Home dealer	ISHPI Earl Bowers Suffolk, VA 23435 (757) 809-2302 info@ishpi.net Cyber protection Service Company
Bay Area Demo Pro's Kristopher Wood Interlochen, MI 49683 (231) 709 - 5895 BayAreaDemoPros@gmail.com https://northernmichigan-demolition.com/northern-michigan-demolition/ Demolitions and Debris Removal	C.H. Marine Services Chris Hank Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 203-6396 chmarineservices@gmail.com Boat Repair Services	Creative Memories Janet Hess Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 630-3878 jhess4cm@hotmail.com https://www.creativememories.com/user/JanetHess Scrapbook Supplies-Albums, decorative paper, embellishments, tools, etc.	Eagle's Dream Rachel Mandelstamm Greensboro, NC 47406 (989) 385-2129 eaglesdream2@yahoo.com https://www.facebook.com/eaglesdream2 Authentic native handmade dream catchers, quilting, crochet and knitted items.	Greene Environmental Services Mike Greene Livonia, MI 48154 (734) 272-8434 mgreene@greeneenvironmentalservices.com Asbestos abatement services	Iversons Outdoors Jim Baker Munising, MI 49862 (906) 452-6370 baker.jimr@gmail.com Handcrafted traditional snowshoes
Bay Pharmacy Douglas Goudreau St. Ignace, MI 49781 (906) 643-7725 bayrxsi@gmail.com Pharmaceuticals and prescriptions	Caster Construction Ed Caster Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 635-3550 elcasterconstruction@gmail.com Construction	Credence HR Michael DiAngelo Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A5A8 (705) 542-7208 michael@credence.ca Management Consulting	Eversons Furnishings Jimmy Everson St. Ignace, MI 49781 (906) 643-7751 info@eversonsfurniture.com Residential and commercial furniture	Hakola Logging Tate Hakola Rudyard, MI 49780 (906) 440-0842 Cuts, splits, delivers firewood	IvyTek Inc. Sandy Griggs Jacksonville, FL 32245 (337) 212-0994 sales@ivytek.com Loan management software services
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From “Directory,” Page 18 Kings Fish Market Sally Shultz Naubinway, MI 49762 (906) 477-6311 benschultz3134@gmail.com Fish, Gifts, and Sporting Goods	(906) 632-4272 ashmuncreek@sbcglobal.net Construction McCabes Flooring Bill McCabe Marquette, MI 49855 (906) 228-8821 mccabesflooring@aol.com Flooring Medical Arts Optical Melanie Cook Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 632-2289 melaniebea@aol.com Glasses and hearing aids Mesick Market Carl Brasseur Mesick, MI 49668 (231) 885-1030 carlbrasseur@gmail.com Full line grocery store (Spartan Brand) MI Playground Andy/Nick Behling Jensen, MI 49428 (616) 201-8731 contact@enjoymiplayground.com Digital media production Mid-American Title Amy Goetz Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 379-9555 amy@mid-americantitle.com Title agency MidJim Convenience Store Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 635-4782 jmacdonald@saulttribe.net. Convenience store MidJim Convenience Store St. Ignace, MI 49781 (906) 643-9906 jmacdonald@saulttribe.net. 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Sault Tribe Housing Authority Emergency Rental Assistance Program frequently asked questions

What is the purpose of the Emergency Rental Assistance Program?

The program provides financial assistance to qualifying applicants to prevent housing instability, potential eviction, and financial hardships of tenants and landlords as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Who is eligible to receive assistance from the program?

Enrolled members of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians households residing in the United States.

— Rental households that can demonstrate their housing is at risk due to unpaid rent or utility bills resulting from their income being negatively affected from COVID 19.

— Rental households that have rental arrears or past due utility bills and home energy costs.

— Rental households must have an income no more than 80 percent of the area median income (AMI) AND

One or more members of the household must attest, in writing, that due to the pandemic, they have either:

1) Qualified or received unemployment benefits; OR

2) Experienced a reduction in income

3) Incurred significant costs

4) Experienced other financial hardship

AND one or more members of the household must demonstrate they:

1) Are at risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability, which may include having a past due utility or rent notice or paying in excess of 30% of their income for rent and utilities, OR

2) Live in unsafe or unhealthy conditions. For example, one or all of the applicant's utilities have been turned off

What financial assistance is provided under the program?

Program funds may be used to provide assistance for the following expenses, which go back as far as March 13, 2020 and have developed because of the pandemic:

— Utility arrears and prospective utility costs. Eligible utilities include: electricity, gas, water/sewer, fuel oil and trash.

— Rent arrears and prospective rent.

— Other Eligible Expenses. STHA may also provide funding for other eligible expenses related to housing incurred due, directly or indirectly, to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak, as defined by the Secretary to include the following:

(1) Relocation expenses and rental fees (if a household has been temporarily or permanently displaced due to the COVID-19 outbreak);

(2) Application or screening fees;

(3) Reasonable accrued late fees (if not included in rental or utility arrears and if incurred due to COVID-19);

(4) Any rental deposit required by a landlord as a condition of obtaining possession and occupancy of a rented dwelling unit;

(5) Internet service provided to the rental unit, so long as the eligible household provides documentation that the service is for the purposes of engaging in distance learning, telework, telemedicine, or for obtaining government services. Funding for this purpose can be used for payment of arrears (only dating back until March 13, 2020), for installation, and for up to three months prospective monthly payments

(6) Payment to a hotel/motel if the applicant is staying at a hotel/motel longer term (one week or longer) as a means of avoiding homelessness, provided that: (a) the household has been temporarily or permanently displaced from its primary residence or does not have a permanent residence elsewhere; (b) the total months of assistance provided to the household do not exceed 12 months (plus an additional 3 months if necessary to ensure housing stability for the household); and (c) documentation of the hotel or motel stay is provided and the other applicable requirements imposed by law or policy are met. Neither maintenance costs nor expenses incidental to the charge for hotel/motel room are allowable expenses.

(7) Note: All funding for Other Eligible Expenses must be supported by documentary evidence such as a bill, invoice, or evidence of payment to the provider of the service.

Are past due rent and utility bills from 2020 eligible for assistance?

Yes, rent or utility expenses from as far back as March 13, 2020, (the date of emergency declaration made in connection to COVID-19) are eligible for assistance under the program.

How do I apply for rental assistance under this program?

Applications are available for download at Housing offers Emergency Rental Assistance - The Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians Official Website.

I don't have access to a computer. How can I apply?

Applicants may also call the call center at (906) 495-1450 or toll-free at (800) 794-4072 to request an application be mailed to you. The call center is open Monday- Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. where staff members are available to help applicants. Applicants who have questions or need assistance completing the application will be referred to a staff member, who will call them back and assist them through the process. Please note due to the high volume of calls it may take a day or two for a return call, but you WILL receive a call.

I don't have blank copies of some of the eligibility support documents you said I need to apply for assistance. What do I do? Where can I find the forms?

Copies of self-certification (Attestation) forms: 1.) Income 2.) Financial Hardship and 3.) Housing Instability are available for download at Housing offers Emergency Rental Assistance - The Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians Official Web Site Applicants who do not have these forms, which are known as eligibility support documents, will need to print a copy, complete the form and either mail it to STHA or email it to EmergencyRentalAssistanceProgram@saulttribe.net as part of the application process. The website also has a blank W-9 form for landlords.

How do I check the status of my application?

After submitting an application, applicants will be notified, in writing, if additional information is needed to complete the application or their application is complete. Please allow 14 days from the time of submission to receive notification. Applicants are encouraged to provide an email address to expedite correspondence with STHA staff.

What is the funding source for the STHA Emergency Rental Assistance Program?

The Emergency Rental Assistance bill was passed as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, which provides \$25 billion nationally for pandemic-response rental assistance. The program is administered through the U.S. Department of the Treasury. As part of this relief package, the STHA received approximately \$6.4 million to assist eligible tenants.

What documentation will a renter need to complete the application?

As part of the program application, all tenants/renters and household members must submit the following documentation for STHA to confirm eligibility:

A complete application including, but not limited to:

— Government or DMV issued photo ID for at least one member on the lease agreement

— Copy of rent or lease agreement (or receipt) signed with rent amount listed and dated

— Proof of income affected by COVID-19 (i.e. unemployment letter or letter from employer stating reduced hours or pay)

— Proof of unpaid rent and/or utilities (i.e. documentation from a landlord or utility company stating amount due)

— Notices of late rent payment or notice to evict, if applicable (applicant's name on notice)

— Copies of past due utility bills, if utility assistance is being requested (in applicant's name)

— Income documentation for all household members above the age of 18

— Such other information as may be specifically requested by STHA to document

income, the need for services being applied for, and the connection of that need for services due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Applicants must reapply every three months for prospective financial assistance and will only be assisted if funds are still available.

What if I am a household member who is 18 or older and do not receive income?

If you do not receive income, please submit the Certification of Zero Income Form, this is available for download at Housing offers Emergency Rental Assistance - The Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians Official Web Site

Why do I have to submit so much paperwork? Why can't I just tell you I need help?

The federal government requires that several requirements are met during the application and review process. All items requested are required for those interested in seeking approval for funding from the Emergency Rental Assistance Program.

How will payments be made?

Payments will be made directly to the landlord, utility provider or service provider on the applicant's behalf.

Am I eligible for assistance even if I have moved to a different rental unit since the start of COVID-19?

There is no requirement for the length of stay in a rental unit to be eligible to receive rent relief.

If I've applied for and received rental assistance from another source in the past, am I still eligible to apply for rent relief under this program?

If an applicant has already received assistance for a specific time period, this program cannot provide assistance for that same time period. The STHA Emergency Rental Assistance Program assistance may only be used to pay for incurred costs that are not and will not be paid for by any other rental assistance provider to avoid a duplication of benefit.

If I'm current on my rent, but my utility bills are past due, can I apply for utility assistance under this program?

Yes. Utility or home energy costs are eligible, even if the applicant does not need rental assistance.

What if my landlord already has started the eviction process?

Apply today. The process is the same whether an eviction proceeding has started or not.

Are homeowners with mortgage payment problems eligible for assistance under this program?

No. For this program, only those who rent their homes are eligible.

This project is being supported, in whole or in part, by federal award number 21.023 awarded to Sault Tribe Housing Authority by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

Sault Tribe member-owned businesses directory continued from page 19

Total Outlook Connie Payment Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 632-6936 totaloutlooksalon@gmail.com	Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 259-1559 gjackson@upautosales.com Used car sales, car detailing	(906) 553-8430 jessicaloushields@gmail.com Handmade hippie/bohemian clothing	Christmas, MI 49862 (906) 387-1111 whitepinelodgeonline.com Hotel & Convenience Store	com Handmade lures for wall-eye fishing	Y&R Complete Outdoor Services Yolanda Mellon-Beard Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 203-7388 petitpasyolanda@gmail.com
Hair Salon Trim and Tan Kelly Hatinger Manistique, MI 49854 (906) 341-8746 khatinger@centurytel.net Hair salon w/ tanning beds	U.P. Carpet Mart LLC Derrick Eitrem Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 635-1026 https://upcarpetmart.business.site/ Residential and commercial flooring	Walsh Service Solutions LLC Rich Walsh Kalamazoo, MI 49009 (269) 823-1051 rich@walshservicesolutions.com Environmental Consulting Services	Wholistic Energy Healing Shelly Kucharczyk Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 906-440-2224 s.kucharczyk@yahoo.com https://www.facebook.com/wholisticwellnesssolutions/	Willis Pest Control Willard Willis Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 322 7445 Full Pest Control Services	Tree Removal, Landscaping and Lawn Care
U.P. Auto Group Gerald Jackson	Up Cycled Hippie Jessica Shields Escanaba, MI 49829	White Pine Lodge	Wicked Walleye Tackle Mendy Kolbus Rapid River, MI 49878 (906) 286-1886 wickedwalleyet@yahoo.	Windy Hills Bison Farm Carl Brasseur Tustin, MI 49688 (231) 342-4245 Brasseur@windyhillsbisonfarm.com Full Bison Farm and home to Award winning animals	Zodiac Party Store, Taste of the U.P. Keith Massaway St. Ignace, MI 49781 (906) 643-8643 kmassaway@msn.com Convenience store

FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS DOESN'T JUST HAPPEN LIKE DIRECTOR SORENSON SUGGESTS: ST TO RECEIVE ANOTHER > \$160 MILLION!



*Representing All Members
Everywhere*

Ahneen, Boozho, Negee:

For the last several months, I have been updating you of my efforts to secure federal relief funds to survive the impact of the pandemic. The impact on our Tribe is especially pronounced given our reliance on casino and enterprise revenues which has been drastically reduced by over 70%! We are absolutely reliant on and appreciative of our gross gaming and enterprise revenues as we have a payroll of over \$85 million. The jobs we provide have led to self respect, self determination and self sufficiency. I am grateful our Tribe has prioritized job retention during the pandemic even though we took huge losses at over \$105 million. I have the greatest respect for our Gaming and Enterprise teams from the front line workers to the executive level. I am grateful that our Casino CEO brought a recruitment and retention plan to show our appreciation.

At the onset of the pandemic, our Tribe declared a State of Tribal Emergency (3/17/2020). This meant that for six months, we had absolutely no gaming revenues come in. Per a standing resolution introduced by myself and the late Denny McKelvie, 100% of our net revenues go to tribal services. So the loss of revenues not only impacts our ability to pay the \$85 million in payroll, but also drastically cuts our \$18 million for services to just \$5 million.

This is precisely why our efforts to secure federal funding becomes a matter of survival. We are entitled to this federal support. Recall, that we "Pre-Paid" for every penny we receive with the cessation of over 500 million acres of land across the country, and specifically with 14 million acres of land in the 1836 treaty for which our tribe was a signatory. The treaty guarantees, "health, education and social welfare" into perpetuity. Still it would

be naive to believe that funding flows automatically. I am extremely adept at advocating for funding. Nonetheless, rather than support me in my efforts, the few haters on our Board choose to discount my efforts. This is selfish, petty and begs the question, what do they bring to the Tribe?

Ensuring the Federal government honors the treaties takes a great effort and advocacy with both the legislature and the Presidential Administration. This ebbs and flows depending on if you have a supportive President and Congress. It is our job to advocate for full funding. This represents a great bulk of the work I do. I have proven my value here with the delivery of increasing amounts of federal funds to our Tribe. During this pandemic, I have shown this at unprecedented and historical levels ~ \$87 million last year.

The leadership roles I serve in as President of United Tribes of Michigan and the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes and as 1st Vice President of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) provides great access. While the haters on our Board fail to value my efforts, tribal leaders across the state, region and Nation support my efforts. During the last three Congressional appropriations cycles, I have been the tribal leader who has testified in advocacy of our Indian Country budget. I share this with you as the jealous haters on our Board have suggested that these funds are automatic. While I rely on the input of key Tribal team members and policy advisors, my unique role at all levels opens doors like never before.

To be brutally honest, with a few exceptions at the Board level, I am not getting a lot of help or even support ~ even when I ask for it. For example, when testifying during Tribal Consultation for Home Improvement funding through HUD, I asked Tribal Board Member and Sault Tribe Housing Commissioner Bridgett Sorenson if she would be willing to sit in for me as I had two Consultations scheduled at the same time. She REFUSED. The good news is that I was able to split my time to do both. During other Consultations, I have asked and had cooperation

with Board Members Keith Massaway, Catherine Hollowell, and Michael McKerchie who have all testified during the intense round of Consultations session we have participated in. At other times, I have relied on Directors Freiheit, Causley and Gravelle for assistance. But, again, Director Sorenson simply REFUSED.

This begs the question, what are her Board duties? What responsibilities? What effort to earn the nearly \$80,000 a year financial outlay she receives (\$67K + fringe benefits) or the estimated \$1,500 monthly pension she'll likely receive when she retires? Director Sorenson has a full time job such that her Board role is relegated to a part time commitment. Maybe she couldn't break away from her real job.

In 2020, I went after a bigger piece of the pie to ensure a large chunk of federal funding from the Cares Act of 2020 and helped secure over \$9 Billion. There are over 574 tribes so our share at \$47 million in Cares Act funds and another \$40 million in federal relief funds. Still from the vantage point of someone who REFUSED to even testify during a key Consultation, maybe she simply cannot grasp this level of responsibility. For the record, we did secure \$6 million for pandemic related housing funds that are not limited in distribution by service area.

The process for securing federal funds doesn't just happen. It starts with Budget Formulation. I have leveraged our political and policy capital over the years and credit retired Board Member Cathy Abramson for opening my eyes to this level of advocacy. She served on the HHS Secretary Tribal Advisory Council (HHS STAC) and as Chair of the National Indian Health Board. She convinced me to put my hat in the ring for STAC for which I ended up as Vice Chair and hosted several annual budget formulation sessions which covered funding for Indian Health Service, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services, Head Start, CDC and Special Diabetes and much more. I also secured an appointment and serve on the Tribal Interior Budget Council (TIBC) as the Co-Chair for the Midwest. Here I helped our region

move from 60% to 100% participation. Several times, I have testified in support of the Indian Country budget in my role as 1st VP for NCAI. Seven of 10 of the top Indian Country Budget priorities match our region.

The budget process necessitates that we advocate for full funding, mandatory and advanced appropriations. I'm good at this as evidenced by being asked back to testify again and again. Once the House and Senate receive the President's budget, they draft their own and begin negotiating a final budget to be approved by both chambers. Then, the President signs or vetoes the bill. On your behalf, I am on the front line to advocate for full funding in the final appropriations. This doesn't just happen as Director Sorenson naively, ignorantly or spitefully suggests.

Even after the budget is signed into law, another round of Consultation typically occurs to clarify how such funds will be distributed. For example, while we were successful in January in securing \$30 Million for Great Lakes and Midwest Tribes for Pandemic Fisher's Relief, we have yet to receive funding. I am watch-dogging this very closely and testifying in Consultation sessions to make sure that federal agencies do not renege or short change our fishers. This doesn't just happen. Others and I make it happen. So it is disingenuous and off putting when our Board haters refuse me clerical support or disclaim my value in bringing home hundreds of millions to our Tribe.

After all of the above, the federal government then sends a NOFA (Notice of Funding Announcement) that is either formula funded or through a competitive grant process. For years, several key tribal leaders and I have pushed for formula rather than competitive funding and while we have made some headway, we have a way to go. Once I receive these NOFAs, I circulate them to the respective tribal departments to apply and cc our Executive Director. Director Sorenson's attempt to create a wedge issue here is pure manipulation. My role in the budget formulation process helps to scope out our grant application so we are competitive. The final step is the award letter then

creation of a budget. The role of the Board in this process is to accept the award but I welcome their involvement earlier. Some on our Board have assisted when asked, but again, Director Sorenson not only REFUSED, but instead paints a picture to diminish my efforts.

As I revise my original submission of this report (before the deadline) I received a call from the White House. Despite those who disclaim my involvement suggesting I have nothing to do with securing federal funds, the final formula is nearly identical to what I proposed during sessions with Minority Leader Schumer and Speaker Pelosi, what I advocated to the White House and what I pushed through numerous consultations. The funds will come in two tranches. First, roughly 60% will be based on population (self certify rather than IHBG ~ meaning we should receive 3X what we got previously) and the 2nd tranche ~ roughly 35% based on self-certify employment team members with the remaining % based on the equal split of \$1B to each tribe (\$1.7M). I already submitted our full enrollment back in February including Members who live outside of the Service Area. We will receive a second call out to ask us to correct or verify the team member population we previously submitted in case a correction is needed.

Recall that \$20B is subject to the above distribution formula (again, precisely what I proposed). The additional \$11B is restricted and targeted funded. We are already receiving some of these funds (ie. \$18 Million for IHS AFA amendment). So, if we get 3X the Cares Act \$47M, we should receive no less than \$141M. Add to this the \$18M we already got in our IHS AFA Amendment and we are at \$159M. This doesn't factor in additional amounts out of the \$11B (except the IHS AFA we already know about).

I do what I do for the benefit of Our people. A two year total will likely approach 1/4 of a Billion! Despite my haters on Our Board, that's a whole lotta something.

Chi McGwitch Negee,

Aaron

Call: **800-793-0660**

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Our board should be a place of professionalism



MICHAEL MCKERCHIE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Negativity is a strange thing. With all that has happened during the pandemic, the political divide that has only worsened in the last decade, and with all of the grief social media has burdened us with

(online bullying, etc.)—people are quick to condemn it but go right back to reading it, liking it and re-posting it. I get it, negativity, name calling and blaming is easy, AND it sells. What isn't easy is coming up with solutions, rising above the negativity and taking accountability. With that being said, I've not objected as often as I should, I don't call for "orders of the day" as often I should, and I've allowed unprofessional behavior to occur at board meetings and for that I am sorry.

Often times at meetings we've/I've become numb to constant squabbling, personal digs, etc., that it doesn't impact me like it should. We shouldn't tolerate it at the board workshops or meetings. It should be a place of professionalism above all else. We should be able to disagree

without the remarks and concerns of escalating the situation. I must do better. And I will do better. I am reminded of my grandparents, who, I've been told by several people, never spoke bad about other people — never. Which most times is easy to do — when others are gossiping, don't; when others are blaming, don't; and when others are talking bad about you, don't.

The last one is the difficult one. It's hard not to fight back and play their game. But at the end of the day, what for? Some could argue "to defend your name" or "if no one else is speaking, who are people supposed to listen to" — both have valid points, but if you spent all our time defending then you're not able to get your message out, your goals are then set aside to argue someone else's opinion; and

I don't think it will change things. People are going to believe what they want to believe. Social media will continue to separate us and further the divide — all I ask is to consider both sides, question motives and try and foster positive things. We are still dealing with a worldwide pandemic. Revenues are down and although relief may be coming, we have to be cautious on how we move forward.

Many great things are still happening throughout our tribe as well. As previously stated, relief is coming, we have new mobile units for our ARC and Health divisions. New buildings are yet to be open, such as our Early Child Care and Head Start along with a JKL Administration Building and EDC warehouse

Kewadin and EDC recently addressed the high demand for

team members and acknowledging those staying with us during these difficult times. We all realize more needs to be done, but we must also celebrate that these are steps in the right direction. I recently had the privileged to help honor a few long-term employees on behalf of the Employee Recognition Committee. I made several stops last week and, overall, we had hundreds of years of service recognized and I would like to say *chi miigwech* to those team members for staying with us and helping our community prosper — you are all appreciated.

As always, I encourage members to get in touch with me and help come up with solutions to the many issues our tribe still faces. Send me an email (mmckerchie@saulttribe.net) or text (906) 440-7768. *Chi miigwech*.

Things are getting better for tribe and casinos



KEITH MASSAWAY,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III

We are well into May and things are getting better. We are now seeing the pandemic news turning more to a positive outlook. The tribe is still financially

on stable ground, thanks to our chairman, the board and staff working to make sure help, that is presented from all agencies, is maximized and utilized to its highest potential.

The newest round of federal funding is about to be released as I write this and the tribe is in a great position to maximize the distribution and has plans to utilize it efficiently. Most of this money will be limited on how we can spend it. This is actually an upgrade from last time because the guidelines will be in place as we acquire it. Last time, the money was distributed and over 50 changes or limits were put on the funds after weeks and sometimes months. This created a lot of consternation amongst the tribes because some funds had been spent against the rules

that came out late. Our tribe did not have these problems because we were cautious, deliberate and we followed a common-sense approach on how these funds would best help the tribe survive those times.

With our casinos, the biggest hurdle we have encountered is that the Canadian border remains closed and looks to remain that way for quite some time to come. The Sault Ste. Marie casino is greatly affected by the closure and the customer counts are way down. The other four casinos in our inventory are rebounding quickly and we hope will be back to normal by mid-summer. The casinos are extremely short staffed as are all the businesses in the area, so we ask you to be patient and kind when problems arise or

things seem to be on the slow side. We are trying and we apologize in advance for any problems that might occur because of limited staffing.

The governor of Michigan has put out her milestones for opening up the state. They are, two weeks after 55 percent of Michiganders over 16 get one dose, in person work will be allowed in all business sectors. Two weeks after 60 percent over 16 get one dose, indoor capacity at sports stadiums will increase to 25 percent; indoor capacity at conference centers, banquet halls and funeral homes will increase to 25 percent; bars and restaurants will no longer be required to close early. Two weeks after 65 percent over 16 get at least one dose, all indoor limits will

be lifted. Limits on social gatherings will also be relaxed. Two weeks after 70 percent over 16 receive one dose, all restrictions will be lifted. I can't wait for that day to happen. We do believe that these numbers seem a little high, but we implore that anyone who wants the vaccination or is unsure, please get in touch with our very professional health care staff and ask about the benefits and the risks of the vaccine. We have vaccine available and can easily administer it to anyone at their convenience. Right now the state is around 38 percent vaccinated.

Thank you for all the e-mails and the phone calls. Keith Massaway 702 Hazelton St., St. Ignace, MI 49781, kmassaway@msn.com, (906) 643 6981.

Personal attacks in unit reports need to stop



BETTY FREIHEIT,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Hello tribal members, this needs to be said. Our Chairman, Dr. Aaron Payment, works hard for our tribe. We are lucky to have him. His advocacy efforts have enhanced our funding and brought awareness to our own and other tribes' critical needs at national levels. And, the professional contacts and relations he has forged have benefitted our programs and services.

Our chair has always advocated for better benefits and treatment of tribal employees and increased services to all tribal members regardless of location.

Unlike other chairs and board members, he has never used his

position for personal or family gain, such as hiring family and friends, proposing and voting on benefits that will help family or self, or directing staff in engage in unethical acts for self-gain. So, I am disgusted by the ongoing bashing of the chairman by select board members. I am appalled by reading unit reports that demean and degrade his work for our tribe, and the disrespectful treatment of him at meetings. I am tired of hearing the malicious and unfounded gossip spread by some board to their loyal constituents who they are using to carry their hateful messages.

So, what are the motives of these disgruntled board? Do they have some misguided belief that bringing the chairman down somehow elevates themselves? Are they angry because the chairman refuses to engage in traditional cronyism or cover up for unethical acts? Is it petty jealousy? Do they believe the chair makes them look bad?

Perhaps it's a bit of all these. To compensate for their own inadequacies and unwillingness they demean the work the chair does. They make statements that, "staff do all the work," or "we get money because we are a tribe." Hogwash. Staff do work hard, no one disputes that, but we are also

front and center for allocations and attention because of diligent and exhaustive efforts by our chair. He has developed and fostered the necessary contacts, he is ever watchful of legislative proposals and changes, and responds accordingly with appropriate advocacy.

While these board throw stones not one of them have ever stepped up to engage in even a fraction of the work that the chairman performs. Are they incapable, unmotivated or too comfortable remaining in the narrow confines of their own units? Perhaps they are too busy with their second full-time jobs to spend more than minimal time on tribal matters. And to make the chair's job even harder, these same board deny him the right to supervise a secretary or any support staff for that matter.

And when the chairman stands up to these attacks, he is labeled as unprofessional. I believe it's time to end these blasting, critical unit reports. They are not keeping with the intent of the constitutional mandate that board provide monthly updates. If board wants to use their reports to make political attacks, then let them pay for the space as an advertisement. No reason why the tribe should be supporting these personal state-

ments. The paper does not allow negative political ads. Well, in my opinion that is just what these reports are — political. And they reduce the quality of our fine newspaper.

Please keep yourself and fam-

ily safe, look out for our elders and help your neighbor anytime you can!

Betty F. Freiheit,
Unit I Director
(906) 379-8745

bfreiheit@saulttribe.net

Tribe working through pandemic issues



CHARLES MATSON SR.,
DIRECTOR, UNIT V

Ahnee. I hope everyone is doing well and being safe. This pandemic has been hard and painful for all of us. From not being able to be with our loved ones to trying to keep our businesses above water. We see that we are

starting to get the pandemic under control as more vaccinations are being administered. If we can just keep the numbers going in the right direction, we can get back to some normalcy in our lives. I am optimistic that we will beat this pandemic and come out of this stronger than ever. My heart goes out to our people and their families who lost loved ones during this pandemic. Know that you are on our minds and in our prayers.

The board has passed measures to put more money in the pockets of our casinos team members, whether they are current employees or new hires. We know that this may not be enough but I believe it is a good start in the right direction. We all know it is very competitive to attract new team members and keep current team members in our employment. The need to keep compet-

See "Matson Unit V" page 23

Helping elders, employees and other issues



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

I have received many calls from elders in our communities inquiring about when you all can begin to meet for monthly meals and meetings again. Our Elder Division director has spoken with and met some of the groups and the consensus has been to remain on pause for the time being as well as recommendations from our Heath director. Although we have made major strides in getting the vaccine to our members and all adults in the communities the numbers are still rising and we do not want to place anyone in risk. With that being said I am happy to report once again that we

have additional staff in our Elder Division who have made every attempt to make home visits to elders who need any resources. You can call me or the department if you have needs or questions about care or resources. The division is committed to helping you in any way possible while we are stuck at home for safety purposes. I miss seeing everyone and cannot wait until we are back to normal and can spend time together. Please reach out if you need any services and we will do our best to assist.

The next item to discuss is our recovery hospital project. This is the grand plan of building the full hospital for treatment and recovery services. During the initial impact of the pandemic many items had to be postponed as most time was spent on getting through that and now vaccinations. I want to report that the team is meeting and moving forward on this project, again we will need millions in funds to accomplish this endeavor but I am committed and its priority to me as well as many others on our board and Heath staff. We have plenty of funding for treatment services and travel to assist as well as recovery home beds in the area for opioid dependency; we will continue to seek out how

we can structure our own facility to help our people. If you are in need and have even called before, things and programs are always changing to better service our people so please do not hesitate to make contact again with our Substance Abuse program. Please call me, as well, if you need information. During this time, it's even harder with depression and worry about the future for many members and our ways include family, gatherings and ceremony and without those things the struggle is much greater and we do have people and funding to help you through this.

One of our greatest assets is our workforce. We have struggled to keep up our pay structure and Human Resource Department to get people working in a timely manner; both areas lack. With our process it takes so much time to get people on the clock working but we have recently started offering job fairs to hire more efficiently and monetary incentives for seasonal workers as well as existing team members. This is being used to retain current team members as well as recruit for our casino properties but I would like to say that this is not a tribal issue, the entire nation feels this burden and we are not the only ones. I

wish it was as easy as it sounds to increase our wages a few extra dollars but it is more complicated than that.

In the past few years, we have gotten better by adding COLA and longevity increases every year. This alone cost hundreds of thousands of dollars and with the pandemic and gaming revenue already in decline and our closing of the casinos makes these decisions even harder. We do offer a benefit package that hosts insurance, cultural leave, vacation, sick leave, personal and bereavement time off. We also offer payroll deductions for furniture and appliances and we have child care assistance for team members.

I want to take this time to personally thank all our dedicated staff who have remained on our front line in businesses and showing up to continue to do their job...it's not easy to work in any big establishment with hundreds of other team members but working for a tribe adds politics, favoritism other issues. I am aware and recognize that we need solutions on pay increases that are responsible for our tribe as a whole and what we can sustain as well as better working policies and conditions. I just want you to know that I remain fully aware of all the

items and will continue to do all I can to address them. Again, it's hard in any big establish that has hundreds of team members but we are competitive and we have many who are dedicated and hold their positions proudly and work hard. I am reminding you of all the things we do offer just to encourage you to apply. Thank you again to those of you who work hard every day in our revenue generating properties, your dedication does not go unnoticed.

We continue to work toward any and all dollars we can receive to assist fisherman, families and projects that will better service our members. Please watch our website for additional information about these programs. I speak to many people about the needs we have and will also advocate to get the services or help directly to you in a timely manner; we have many endeavors on the table and I look forward to getting us to those.

I can be reached at (906) 484-2954, (906) 322-3818 and lcausley@saulttribe.net if you would like to meet or need my help. Baamaapii and take good care of each other.

Lana Casuley-Smith
Director, Unit II

Dealing with pandemic, politics, tribal issues



**BRIDGETT SORENSON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

I had lots of good feedback from my April report and a couple of negative remarks, but that is all part of the job. I am just trying to communicate the facts and when others have different opinions; that is expected. One of the calls I did receive from an elder gentleman downstate had a very good point. He said that as board members we don't do enough to communicate with the membership and this leads them to believe the posts on social media. I do agree that we (the board) or individually need to communicate more. The one point I made is that if I had to comment on every post, and contradict the lies or misleading statements, it would be an all-day affair.

I absolutely hate the fighting, arguing and nonsense, but I will take that role when I need to. I cannot and will not be bullied, blackmailed or threatened. I had too much of that during my first year on the board and thankfully Denny McKelvie helped and guided me through that time. He offered to help me with attorney fees when the chair threatened to sue me. I so miss the wise and no-nonsense Director McKelvie. He reminded me of my grandfa-

ther and I will never forget the support and wisdom he provided to me. I know he is smiling down at me saying, "You go, girl!"

The board could get so much more done during the meetings and workshops if a few things happened, such as following Robert's Rules of Order, paying attention to the comments (not on social media/email), not playing favorites and not worrying about the next election. Austin, Betty and Aaron are advocating to open up the meetings and workshops for members' physical attendance. I have no problem with that. I'm tired of people preaching that the meetings are closed when, in fact, people can participate in the membership concerns on Zoom. Many other local governments and meetings are happening this way. Let's open it all up so the members can see what some want to do for their family and friends behind closed doors.

The chair likes to talk about nepotism and cronyism and how he doesn't support it, but goes along with it when it suits his agenda. This has always been very contentious for me as I have written about it several times. I truly understand as a tribal nation that many have family who work for the tribe or may want to in the future. My concern comes in when hiring, disciplining, raises, promotions, etc., come into play and people do not abstain and try to influence or make deals to protect people.

His new thing is blasting out all the money we will get from the federal government. Then to us he says don't make any plans to spend the money because we have lost so much revenue through COVID. I don't see any board members putting any information out there on estimates of grants or windfalls. We know the casino

revenue has been down and we will need to use the money as revenue replacement to keep the programs and services in place. I feel like it is just a way to get members' hopes up that we will be able to distribute more funds when we don't even know what we are getting, what the restrictions are and what revenue needs to be replaced. This leads to angry members thinking we are wasting millions of dollars because of the half-cocked statements that get put out there.

I had been advocating for some sort of hiring and retention programs with the crisis that has been going on in my community with the labor shortage with many people still drawing unemployment. Many of the local businesses have been advertising \$15-\$20 an hour and we have several open positions that we need filled. We are still waiting on our compensation study to come to us which I am expecting it to be soon since COVID slowed the process.

The casino CEO brought the board some options and ideas for incentives and the board discusses these at length and voted on May 4 to give all new hires a \$500 bonus after working two weeks as well as a choice to earn \$2,000 more by November. The current casino team members also will receive \$500 and the choice to earn another \$2,000 as well. We couldn't really just offer it to our new hires because we really need to say thank you to those who have stayed with us over the years and through the pandemic. This will hopefully help fill some of the casino vacancies but we have plenty of work left to do. This will cost the casino about \$2 million.

The compensation study results, I bet, will probably cost \$4-\$5 million to rectify. We used to be one of the best places to work in

the U.P. We need to bring back the 3 percent 401k contribution and match. I am hoping we can work with all divisions to create a plan to fill positions that people will stay in for their career. Turnover is too costly and not good for customer service.

I am excited to see the renovations that have been taking place at the McCann School Building. This is used as the community center in St. Ignace and will serve as a place to hold funeral luncheons and ghost feasts as well. The kitchen was probably 50 years old or more and there is now a walk-in refrigerator and freezer that will be great for big feasts.

The tribe received a child care grant to help families who need child care assistance and it will also help essential workers with no income requirements. This program will also help a tribal member with starting their own daycare. There is always a shortage of daycare providers. Please check with ACFS, our website or the newspaper for qualifications for this grant.

So far, the only grant that we can offer all members at this time is the rental assistance program through Housing. If you have back rent or are being evicted you should call housing at (906) 495-1450 to be screened for qualifications.

Anyone interested in getting the COVID vaccine should call one of our clinics or fill out the form online to be contacted. The health division has done an awesome job of putting on clinics and reaching out to get as many people vaccinated as possible.

A reminder to apply for our annual scholarships through the Education Department, which is at the Big Bear. Students do not have to reside in the service area to qualify. For more information,

please visit saulttribe.com or call (906) 635-RINK.

I would like to congratulate all of our members who are graduating from high school as well as college. I would encourage high school graduates to consider taking up a trade that will almost guarantee you with a lifetime of employment.

Anyone with any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at bsorenson@saulttribe.net, bridgett91@yahoo.com, (906) 430-0536.

From "Matson Unit V" page 18

itive wages and team members benefit packages has never been more important to help raise their standards of living and be able to pay their bills. The summer tourism season is fast approaching and we need to be positioned to take full advantage of it and make sure patrons are provided quality services. We know that we have many other team members outside our businesses who also need more competitive wages. We may not be able to do this overnight but I believe this can be done over time.

There will be building construction on our trust land in Christmas near the casino. We will be, with our business partners Lume, putting up a marijuana dispensary. If we can have this business up and running before the summer tourism season, it would be great. There is not a for sure completion date at this time but it is my hope that it moves along quickly.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at (906) 450-5094 or cmatson@saulttribe.net.

Respectfully,
Charles J Matson

KEWADIN CASINO ST. IGNACE

33Rd

Anniversary
MAY 21



HOT SEAT DRAWS FROM 6:30 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.

SPIN THE WHEEL TO WIN UP TO \$500 CASH OR \$200 CREDITS

MANISTIQUE · ST. IGNACE · HESSEL · SAULT ^{STE} MARIE · CHRISTMAS

KEWADIN CASINO
MANISTIQUE

27th
Anniversary
CELEBRATION

FRIDAY,
JUNE 25, 2021
2021

**HOT SEAT DRAWS
START AT 4 P.M.**

CASH DRAWS
START AT 7 P.M.

**WIN
\$1,000
GRAND
PRIZE**

SEE NORTHERN REWARDS CLUB
TO REGISTER AND FOR
MORE DETAILS.
MUST EARN 50 BASE POINTS TO
QUALIFY FOR PROMOTION.



**KEWADIN CASINO
CHRISTMAS**

27th

ANNIVERSARY

JUNE 11

**HOT SEAT DRAWS START AT 1 P.M.
CASH DRAWS
\$1270 GRAND PRIZE**



SEE NORTHERN REWARDS CLUB TO REGISTER AND FOR MORE DETAILS. MUST EARN 50 BASE POINTS TO QUALIFY FOR PROMOTION.