



Win Awenen Nisitotung

December 21, 2022
Little Spirit Moon • Manidoo Giisoonhs
Vol. 43 • No. 12



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

Membership elects Lowes as tribal chairman

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — Members of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa have elected Unit 1 Director and Vice Chairman Austin Lowes as tribal chair. With an unofficial vote count in the Special Advisory Election of 6,539 votes recorded, Lowes was the projected winner out of three eligible candidates, having received 56 percent of the vote. Lowes will serve a one-and-a-half year term that ends June 27, 2024.

“Miigwech to everyone for your confidence in my leadership,” Lowes said. “There is no shortage of work to do to keep our tribe moving forward and ensuring our government continues to meet its citizens’ needs. I look forward to working with our community and our partners at the tribal, state and federal level to ensure the best possible outcomes for our citizens.”

Lowes received a bachelor’s degree in Political Science from Lake Superior State University and a master’s degree in Social

Work from Michigan State University. As graduate student, he was awarded fellowships from the National Congress of American Indians and the National Association for Social Work for his commitment to addressing tribal issues. His career as a social worker has taken him to three reservations, the Sault Tribe’s, the Flathead Indian Reservation in Montana, and the Bay Mills Indian Community, where he gained further insight into the needs of Indigenous communities.

The election was announced on Sept. 19 of this year to replace former tribal Chair Aaron Payment who resigned on May 11. Ballots were mailed to registered tribe voters on Nov. 7, and voters had until 5 p.m. on Dec. 7 to return them to the Election Committee’s post office box in Sault Ste. Marie.

The unofficial vote totals for this election were: Austin Lowes: 3,719, Bridgett Sorenson: 1,446, and DJ Hoffman: 1,374.



Photo by Jennifer Dale-Burton

Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes presents Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer with an black ash basket at the Tribal-State Summit held Dec. 5 at the Sault Kewadin Casino.

Tribes, state meet on shared priorities and dialog

SAULT STE. MARIE — On Dec. 5, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer attended the Tribal-State Summit in Sault Ste. Marie at the Sault Tribe’s Kewadin Casino. She met with tribal leaders to address shared priorities and continue an open dialog between the state of Michigan and sovereign tribal governments. She also announced her appointment of Judge Allie Greenleaf Maldonado to the Michigan Court of Appeals. Judge Maldonado will be the first tribal citizen ever appointed to the Michigan Court of Appeals.

“It was an honor to attend the Tribal-State Summit in the

Sault,” Whitmer said. “The state of Michigan and sovereign tribal nations must continue working together on our shared priorities and maintain an open, productive dialog to get things done on the kitchen-table issues. I am committed to working alongside tribal leaders to make a real difference in people’s lives and continue growing our economies. Our fortunes are linked, and we must collaborate to move our nations forward.”

“We are pleased to host today’s summit between the state’s tribal communities and Gov. Whitmer,” Sault Tribe Chairman Austin Lowes said. “It

is fitting we hold this meeting in Sault Ste. Marie, a major gathering place for tribes and their leaders for hundreds of years. Each tribe had an opportunity to discuss individual issues with the governor and her staff, and we expressed support for continued meeting, expanded consultation on key matters and a higher profile for tribal matters during our general session with the governor.”

In Whitmer’s first year in office, she signed Executive

Directive 2019-17, which reaffirms and extends Michigan’s commitment to recognize the sovereignty and right of self-governance of Michigan’s federally-recognized tribes and orders each state department and agency to adhere to these principles.

It’s also the first executive directive in

Michigan history to require training on tribal-state relations for all state department

See “Summit,” page 23

Member gets 12 pointer Nov. 18



Sault Tribe member Adam Ingalls shot this 12-point buck in Muskegon County on Nov. 18, 2022.

Big 85 on Dec. 31



If you see Richard Bellant on Dec. 31, wish him a Happy 85th Birthday! We love you! — Judy & Family

www.saulttribe.com

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 30
Gaylord, MI
49735

Win Awenen Nisitotung
531 Ashmun St.
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783



From top, clockwise: Directors Shawn Borowicz, Mike Mckerchie, Isaac McKechnie, Betty Freiheit, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, Austin Lowes, Tyler LaPlaunt, Kimberly Hampton, Kimberely Lee, Lana Causley-Smith, Bridgett Sorenson (L-R) pose for a photo; Tyler LaPlaunt and the governor (L-R); Traditional Healer Gerard Sagassige, who gave the invocation, presents ribbon ties to the governor and the chairman; Executive Director Christine McPherson, Director Darcy Morrow and Traditional Medicine Supervisor Lori Gambardella (L-R) chat before the Summit; Hessel Drum Mukwa Giizik opens the Summit.




LAKE SUPERIOR
Community Development Corp.

Helping Native Families in Michigan Increase Assets via Homeownership and Entrepreneurship

- ▶ We are a Native Community Development Financial Institution certified by the U.S. Treasury
- ▶ Offering Home Loans for Purchase and Refinancing
- ▶ Offering Business Start-Up and Expansion Loans
- ▶ Offering Home Repair Grant and Business Grant Opportunities
- ▶ Offering Free Homebuyer Education and Business Technical Assistance

906.524.5445 | www.lakesuperiorcdc.com



Is it allergies, a cold or COVID-19?

Your nose knows



Noses can sniff out a lot of things. Like if stuffiness or sneezes are a seasonal illness or COVID-19. So, swab it and test it if you or your child is sick.

Find testing information and resources at Michigan.gov/COVIDTest.

**SAULT STE. MARIE TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023 CALENDAR**

January 3	Sault Ste. Marie	January 17	Sault Ste. Marie
February 7	Sault Ste. Marie	February 21	Sault Ste. Marie
March 7	Sault Ste. Marie	March 21	Sault Ste. Marie
April 4	Sault Ste. Marie	April 18	Manistique
May 2	Sault Ste. Marie	May 16	Sault Ste. Marie
June 6	St. Ignace	June 20	Sault Ste. Marie
July 11	Sault Ste. Marie	July 18	Sault Ste. Marie
August 1	Sault Ste. Marie	August 15	Hessel
September 5	Sault Ste. Marie	September 19	Munising
October 3	Sault Ste. Marie	October 17	Sault Ste. Marie
November 7	Sault Ste. Marie	November 14	Sault Ste. Marie
December 5	Sault Ste. Marie		

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

General meetings of the Board of Directors are held the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month. All general meetings start at 5 p.m. All Sault meetings will be held at the Kewadin Casino and Convention Center, other locations to be announced. Meetings with ** are changed to accommodate the Chair/Board attendance at MAST, NCAI, United Tribes, various Washington, D.C. meetings, and/or holidays.

All special meetings will be announced.

For further information please call Katelynn Griffin (ext. 26338) at the Administration Office: (800) 793-0660 or (906) 635-6050.

Tribal health adds parking



Photos by Scott Brand

Construction crews were busy wrapping up the 2022 season at the Sault Tribal Health Clinic laying a fresh layer of asphalt on the existing parking lot. More than 40 additional parking spaces have been added to the facility as part of an overall project to improve traffic flow and safety at that location. Facilities Manager Charles Waucaush explained the work, which began mid-summer, has substantially concluded although there are some open items that will be done during the winter months and on into spring. The project also included new sidewalks, improved lighting and separated the loading dock area from patient and staff parking.

Sault Tribal committee vacancies announced

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

Anishinaabe Cultural Committee - Ten vacancies - five males (4-year term), five females (4-year term)

Child Welfare Committee - Four vacancies (4-year term)

Election Committee - Two

vacancies (4-year term)
Health Board - Three vacancies (4-year term)

Housing/Utility Authority - One Vacancy (4-year term)
Special Needs/Enrollment Committee -

Unit I - two vacancies
Unit II - two vacancies
Unit III - two vacancies
Unit V: one vacancy (2-year term)

Elder Advisory Committee
Unit I - Sault - One alternate vacancy (4-year term)
Unit II - Hessel - One alternate vacancy (4-year term)
Unit III - St. Ignace - One

alternate vacancy (4-year term)
Unit V - Marquette - One alternate vacancy (4-year term)
Elder Subcommittee
Unit I - Sault - One alternate vacancy (4-year term)
Unit II - Hessel - One regular vacancy, one alternate vacancy (4-year term)
Unit II - Newberry - One regu-

GAS & CIGARETTE DISCOUNTS

Tribally Owned Offering Gas and Cigarette Discounts
MidJim Convenience Store, 2205 Shunk Rd., Sault Ste. Marie
MidJim Convenience Store II, 3045 Mackinac Trial, St. Ignace
Tribally Owned Offering Gas Discount Only
White Pine Lodge, 7889 E, W. M-28, Christmas
Non Tribal owned Stations Offering Gas Discount Only
Newberry BP Express Mart, 13975 M-28, Newberry
Freedom Value Center, 501 W. Washington St., Marquette
Manistique Oil company, 216 Deer St., Manistique
Carnes BP, 2300 Ludington

lar vacancy
Unit III - St. Ignace - One regular vacancy (4-year term)
Unit IV Manistique - One regular vacancy, one alternate vacancy (4-year term)
Unit IV - Escanaba - One regular vacancy (4-year term)
Unit V - Munising - One alternate vacancy (4-year term)

St., Escanaba
Kinross BP Local Express, 4440 Tone Rd., Kincheloe
Cedar Pantry, 159 W M-134, Cedarville

Michigan Indian Elders Vacancies

There are two Michigan Indian Elders delegate appointment vacancies and one Michigan Indian Elders alternate appointment vacancy, a 2-year term.
Interested elders should contact Elder Service Division Director Holly Kibble at (906) 635-4971.

WIOA funding for on-the-job training

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

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

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

Please apply at WIOA at Big Bear Community Recreation Center in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., or call Brenda Cadreau at (906) 635-4767 for more information.

Tribal members: need assistance?

Two membership liaisons work with the chairperson's office on membership issues and concerns across the service area. The liaisons respond to membership issues and follow up to ensure they are resolved. Sault Tribe members are encouraged to contact the liaisons when they need help with tribal issues by emailing them at

membersconcerns@saulttribe.net or contacting them individually at: Clarence Hudak, Lambert Center, St. Ignace, Mich., (906) 643-2124, chudak@saulttribe.net OR Mary Jenerou, Manistique Tribal Center, (906) 341-8469; Munising Centers, (906) 450-7011 or (906) 450-7011, mjenerou@saulttribe.net.

Win Awenen Nisitotung

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

December 21, 2022
Little Spirit Moon
Manidoo Giisoonhs

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Advertising: \$8.50/column inch.
Submission and Subscriptions:
Win Awenen Nisitotung
Attn: Communications Dept.
531 Ashmun St.,
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
Telephone: (906) 632-6398
Fax: (906) 632-6556
E-mail: slucas@saulttribe.net or
jdale-burton@saulttribe.net.

"For All Your Tire Needs"



U.P. TIRE
Complete Tire Sales & Service
BRIDGESTONE Firestone
(906) 632-6661
1-800-635-6661

1129 E. Easterday Ave., Sault, MI 49783

Bill will strengthen federal protections of tribal cultural items

By Brenda Austin

A bipartisan bill that will help protect Native American cultural heritage is set to become law. The Senate-passed bill titled *Safeguard Tribal Objects of Patrimony*, or STOP Act of 2021, strengthens Federal protections for tribal and Native Hawaiian cultural items.

Chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, U.S. Senator Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii), released the following statement on the Senate's passage of H.R. 2930.

"For too long, the export and sale of sacred and culturally significant items from Native peoples in Hawaii, Alaska, and across Indian Country has deprived these communities of their own history and heritage," said Chairman Schatz. "Our bill will help stop the black-market trafficking of these items and

bring them home."

The bill will now head to the President's desk to be signed into law.

Senators Martin Heinrich (D-NM) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) have led the Senate companion bill since 2016. Heinrich said it feels good to have the bill finally headed to President Biden's desk for his signature. "This is going to give both individual tribes and law enforcement tools with which they can help leverage the return of cultural items," he said.

Senator Murkowski agrees, stating, "Safeguarding and repatriating tribal items of cultural and sacred heritage remains at the forefront of protecting Native customs and history."

The STOP Act builds onto the existing Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), that made it illegal

to traffic Native American cultural items, funerary objects and objects of patrimony.

It would help create a federal framework to support the voluntary return of sacred items, including a referral program that museums, tribes and the federal government can use to identify tribal cultural items, and work to get them back to their appropriate tribe.

A seven-member commission will have oversight of the law and will settle disputes between individuals and tribes over repatriation of items.

The Act also increases the maximum prison sentence for stealing or trafficking items to 10 years, from five years.

Sault Tribe Repatriation and Historic Preservation Specialist Marie Richards said, "Trafficking and looting of Native American cultural objects is an issue all

tribes face on a regular basis. We have concerns in Michigan of active looting and trafficking of those objects. As well as concerns of objects in traffic today that were looted long before now. The two actions are interlocked.

"There are people who watch auctions for objects of cultural patrimony and try to purchase those items back to communities. Whereas in archaeology and other heritage fields, care is taken for provenience and provenance, looters do not care. Their purpose is profit. They take and do not share from where, so some objects are forever separated from their original home.

"These items then enter the market for anyone to purchase which moves them further from our communities. Without the profit from trafficking the incentive to loot is driven away. When trafficked, our sacred

objects become collector's trophies. "Research and academic institutions have distinguished themselves from participating and supporting in the looting and trafficking of Native American remains and cultural patrimony. Reconciling that many of their collections came to them through those practices. As imperfect as the process is, tribes and institutions are engaging in restitution of cultural objects and human remains to their communities. Unfortunately, those institutions are not the only places that hold our cultural objects and ancestors."

Richards said that Native American sacred objects are kidnapped (versus stolen) and sold. "We believe many objects are beings (drums for example) so when they are stolen, they are in effect kidnapped from our communities."

Gov. Whitmer announces nine infrastructure projects including one for the U.P.

LANSING, Mich. — Governor Gretchen Whitmer awarded \$3.3 million in grants to city and county road agencies— including \$375,000 to the Chippewa County Road Commission for a S. Mackinac Trail project — to help rebuild local roads in nine areas across Michigan.

"Today's road repair grants will help us fix the damn roads and help Michiganders go to work, drop their kids off at school, and run errands safely,"

said Whitmer. "Since I took office through the end of this year, Michigan will have fixed 16,000 lane miles of road and 1,200 bridges, bolstering our economy and connecting our hardworking communities. Today's grants are the latest in a long line of economic development investments we have made in recent years to make Michigan more competitive. I will work with anyone to advance our economic development and

build up our infrastructure so we can create opportunities for Michiganders everywhere."

Grantees include the cities of Alpena, Battle Creek, Corunna, and Midland and county road agencies, including the Alpena County Road Commission, Chippewa County Road Commission, Mecosta County Road Commission, Monroe County Road Commission, and the St. Clair County Road Commission.

Enacted in 1987 and reauthorized in 1993, the TEDF helps finance highway, road and street projects that are critical to the movement of people and products, and getting workers to their jobs, materials to growers and manufacturers, and finished goods to consumers.

TEDF "Category F," or "Urban Areas in Rural Counties," grants provide state funding for public roadway improvements that create system

continuity with the secondary all-season road system. Eligible entities for the Category F program are urban areas of 5,000 population or more, in rural counties having less than 400,000 population.

Category F grants provide funding for projects that include improving access to the state all-season system or improving safety and all-season capabilities on routes having high commercial traffic.



SAULT STE. MARIE + ST. IGNACE
HESSEL + CHRISTMAS + MANISTIQUE
1-800-KEWADIN | KEWADIN.COM

HAPPY HOLIDAYS All Sites

Go to kewadin.com/holiday-hours or scan QR code for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day hours.



CHRISTMAS DAY FEATURE DreamCatchers and Horseshoe Bay Restaurants | Christmas Day

Smoked ham with au gratin potatoes, cornbread stuffing and more!
Available from noon to 7 p.m.

RESTAURANT SPECIAL DreamCatchers and Horseshoe Bay Restaurants | January Feature

Open Roast Beef Sandwich with Mushrooms,
Caramelized Onions and Swiss Cheese Sauce
Served with Garlic Parmesan Potato Wedges.

54th ANNUAL I-500 Sault Ste. Marie | Saturday, February 4 Win Your Share Of Over \$3,200 CASH and Credits!

SUNDAY FOOTBALL Manistique | Sundays Snacks, Drink Specials, Prizes, Football!

SPIN TO WIN Sault Ste. Marie | January 20 – 22 Win Your Share Of Up To \$15,000 CASH/Bonus Points!

MEGA BINGO Sault Ste. Marie DreamMakers Theater | February 18, 12 p.m. See the Northern Rewards Club Booth for all registration and Mega Bingo information.

KEWADIN GIFT CARDS Available for purchase at any Kewadin Casinos location Kewadin gift cards can be used at all Kewadin Casinos hotels, restaurants and gift shops.

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

Tribal member attends White House Tribal Nations Summit

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Sault Tribe member Cody Jodoin recently attended the 2022 White House Tribal Nations Summit in Washington, D.C.

Jodoin is the Assistant Director of Behavioral Health for the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan in Sault Ste. Marie, and a member of the Indigenous drum group the Mission Hill Singers who were invited to perform at the summit with the Woodland Sky Dance Company, who they have been performing with since 2019. The Woodland Sky Dance Company, along with the Mission Hill Singers, were invited to the Summit by Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland and Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Bryan Newland.

The Mission Hill Singers were in D.C. from Tuesday, Nov. 29 through Thursday, Dec. 1. “The White House Tribal Nations Summit only allows for one individual representative from each federally recognized tribe to attend this event,” Jodoin said. “To perform for a packed room full of tribal ogemaak (leaders) was powerful. As a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians I was extremely proud to be on that stage, representing for our nation on such a prestigious level.”

Jodoin said the group performed during lunch break on day two of the summit. After the performance the group took some time to film a few pop-up performances at some historic sites, including the Lincoln Memorial and WWII Veterans Memorial for use on Woodland Sky’s social media platforms.

He said, “As I continue to reflect on the experience – I can’t help but think of the saying, ‘Take care of the drum and it will take you far in life.’ This trip could very well have been a once in a lifetime opportunity as not every presidential administration puts its relationship with tribal nations on its priority list. These

opportunities don’t present themselves everyday – so I am very thankful to have been included when the opportunity did arise.

The entire experience has been affirmation to my pursuit of maintaining and continuing to learn about my cultural heritage.”

Prior to his tenure with ITCMI, Jodoin was employed with the Sault Tribe for just under 10 years.

Jodoin said he continues to make contemporary Native American drum sticks in his limited free time as a hobby he thoroughly enjoys. “I have been fortunate to send my work all over the United States and Canada over the past eight years. I taught my first drum stick making workshop, hosted by the Bay Mills Indian Community, in February. As a self-taught craftsman, passing my knowledge on to others is very important to me,” he said. A lifelong resident of Sault Ste. Marie, Jodoin said he plans to continue serving tribal communities through his professional career with the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, while continuing to learn more about tribal culture and language when the opportunities arise.

His wife Jenna and he recently purchased a new home in the area, allowing the expansion of her in-home daycare business. Their 4-year-old daughter Harper participates in figure skating, dance and gymnastics.

“We are blessed to be living the dream as I see it, and I hope we can continue to do so for many years to come,” he said.

“My first trip to D.C. will always be one to remember. Super appreciative to have been invited to such an important gathering with my Woodland Sky family, and proud to represent my nation back home — a once in a lifetime opportunity! Also thankful for my wife and family back home for sacrificing their time and efforts to afford me opportunity to come represent,” he said.



Members of the woodland Sky Dance Company and the Mission Hill Singers performed at the 2022 White House Tribal Nations Summit in Washington, D.C.



Cody Jodoin attended the White House Tribal Nations Summit.

Season’s Greetings

It’s been a pleasure serving you this year. From all of us here at the bank, we would like to wish all of our customers a wonderful and happy holiday season. We sincerely appreciate your business, and look forward to working with you again next year. Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year to you and your family.

First National Bank
OF ST. IGNACE

Community Minded... Just Like You

Celebrating **134** years of service to the area.

906-643-6800 • 132 N. State St. • P.O. Box 187 • St. Ignace, MI 49781

www.fnbsi.com

Stop in and find out more at one of our 7 local banking offices.

St. Ignace • North Bay • Moran Township • Cedarville • Mackinac Island • Naubinway • Newberry



Roy Electric Co. Inc.

INDUSTRIAL – COMMERCIAL – RESIDENTIAL

Don't get caught without power again!

Generators: Sales, Installation, Maintenance
by a Trained Licensed Electrician

Visit our website for a list of services!

(906) 632-8878

www.royelectriccompany.com

Anishinaabemowin 2022

Manidoo Giisoonhs Little Spirit Moon

by Susan Askwith

“Language is not a genetic gift, it is a social gift. Learning a new language is becoming a member of the club — the community of speakers of that language.” *We can say Anishinaabemowin deepens our tribal identity.*

The Gifts that keep on Giving... Maagweng — something that is given

What better gift to ourselves, our families and our community than to be whole, empowered people? Our teachings tell us how to do that: The Seven Grandfathers. They are a guide to conducting ourselves in an ethical manner and spending our time productively. The brief definitions here are from our tribe’s website. They are elaborated in other places on the web. And of course each of us can think for ourselves about what those teaching mean.

Mino niibaanamaan!

Merry Christmas!

Miindidaa nanda maagwengan.

Let’s give each other these gifts.

Mino nimkodaading!

Happy New Year!



The words in Anishinaabemowin alter in meaning with the different endings. See if you can **match the “gifts” under the tree with the meanings here.** Put the gift number by the meaning. Notice “N’wii kweji-” (and “G’wii kweji-”) means “I will try to.” Human beings don’t always succeed.

- _____ **N’wii kweji-nbwaakaa.**
I will try to be **wise**, use good sense.
- _____ **G’wii kweji-zaagininim.**
I will try to **love** you all, practice absolute kindness.
- _____ **G’wii kweji-minadendaminim.**
I will try to be **respectful**, act without harm to you all.
- _____ **N’wii kweji-aakdewe.**
I will try to be **brave**, use courage in making choices.
- _____ **N’wii kweji-debwe.**
I will try to tell the **truth**, learn about and be faithful to reality.
- _____ **N’wii kweji-dbaadenjige.**
I will try to act **humbly**, to care and regard for all life equally.
- _____ **N’wii kweji-gwekwaadiz.**
I will try to be **honest**, to have upright character.

“The point of maintaining a language is not just that we can hear another pretty bird singing in the forest, nor is it about restoring some sort of pre-contact idyll.

The goal is about building strong human beings who are okay in their own skin as load-bearing members of the country and the world, and with a toolbox for health and happiness.”

— Anton Treuer, Ojibwe

Pronunciation?? Like last few months, you’ll find these words pronounced at this FaceBook link:

www.facebook.com/SaultTribeLanguageAndCulture

The words in the calendar on the page facing this one are there too. Or you can use the guide below!

Making our Sounds Most letters sound like in English.

Here are the exceptions:

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

We underlined the syllables that get the emphasis.

Pronounce all the letters. Big deal: “nh” has **NO SOUND** of its own. It’s a sign to say the vowels just before it in a nasal way - as if you had a stuffed up nose from a cold.

Di- <u>bik</u> g- <u>be</u> -yii	Long darkness
Waas-ko- <u>nen</u> -ji-gan-an	Lights
<u>Nan</u> -goonh-sak	Little stars
Mi- <u>tig</u> -ook	Trees
Se- <u>gaa</u> -ji-gan-an	Decorations
Mi- <u>daa</u> -san	Stockings
Na- <u>gam</u> -win-an	Songs

Anishinaabe Moon Names

Below are the names of the months for our area. Moon names can tell us when our seasonal harvests generally occur, and during the winter, indicate important spiritual times, such as Little Spirit Moon as a time of healing in our community, and Manidoo Giizis as a time of reflection.

January	Manidoo Giizis	Spirit Moon
February	Makwa Giizis	Bear Moon
March	Ziisbaakdoke Giizis	Sugar-Making Moon
April	Namebin Giizis	Sucker Moon
May	Waaskoone Giizis	Flower Moon
June	Ode'imin Giizis	Strawberry Moon
July	Miin Giizis	Blueberry Moon
Aug.	Mskominike Giizis	Raspberry-Picking Moon
Sept.	Waabagaa Giizis	Leaves-Turning-Color Moon
Oct.	Bnakwe Giizis	Falling Leaves Moon
Nov.	Mshka'odin Giizis	Frozen Moon
Dec.	Manidoo Giisoonhs	Little Spirit Moon

Sault Tribe Anishinaabemowin Classes

Every Wednesday at 6pm - 8pm EST
with Susan Askwith and Paul Blondeau

www.tinyurl.com/susanpaul
or join by phone at 1-312-626-6799
(Meeting ID: 926 5838 7956; Passcode: 631691)

Every Thursday at 10am - Noon EST
with Cecil E. Pavlat Sr.

www.tinyurl.com/shirleycecil
or join by phone at 1-646-558-8656
(Meeting ID: 951 9196 1173; Passcode: 346018)

Pre-recorded Anishinaabemowin lessons posted each Friday and available anytime on our Facebook page
www.facebook.com/saulttribelanguageandculture

All classes are free and open to the public!

Contact our Anishinaabemowin team by email at language@saulttribe.net
Questions? Contact the Sault Tribe Language & Culture Division at 906-635-6050

Sault Tribe Traditional Medicine Program

GERARD SAGASSIGE 2023 January Healer Clinic Hours

January 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, 30, 31
Sault Ste. Marie Health Center,
(906)632-0236 Lori Gambardella

Wednesday, January 4th
Newberry
(906)293-8181

Wednesday, January 11th
Manistique Health Center
(906)341-8469 or (866) 401-0043

Wednesday, January 18th
Munising Health Center
(906)387-4721 or (800)236-4705

Wednesday, January 25th
St. Ignace Health Center
(906)643-8689 or (877)256-0135

Any Questions, or to book an appointment Please Call Traditional Medicine Program at 906-632-0236 or 906-632-5268

2023

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Sault Tribe Traditional Medicine Program's

WOMEN'S FULL MOON CEREMONY

Social Time 5:30 to 6:00
Ceremony starts at 6:00

Located at the Nigaanigiizhik Ceremonial Building (11 Ice Circle Drive)
Women on their moon time may attend (offerings can be made on your behalf)

FRIDAY
JANUARY
6TH

Please contact Lori, Bree, or Katrina with any questions
Masks are recommended
906-632-0236 or 906-632-5268
Chi'Miigwech

Sault Tribe Traditional Medicine Program

GEORGE GOGGLEYE 2023 January Healer Clinic Hours

January 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26
Sault Ste. Marie Health Center
(906)632-0236 Lori Gambardella

Happy New Year

Friday, January 6th
Munising Health Center
(906)387-4721 or (800)236-4705

Friday, January 13th
St. Ignace Health Center
(906)643-8689 or (877)256-0135





Friday, January 20th
Hessel Community Center
(906)484-2727

Friday, January 27th
Manistique Health Center
(906)341-8469 or (866) 401-0043

Any Questions, or to book an appointment Please Call Traditional Medicine Program at 906-632-0236 or 906-632-5268

2023

MANIDOO GIIZIS - SPIRIT MOON - JANUARY 2023

NIIZHWAASO GIIZHIGAT	NTAM GIIZHIGAT	NIIZHO GIIZHIGAT	NSWO GIIZHIGAT	NIIWO GIIZHIGAT	NAANO GIIZHIGAT	NGODWAASWO GIIZHIGAT
1 Mino Nimkodaading (Happy New Year!)	2 shki bboon (new year)	3 Nimkaage. (S/he greets by waving)	4 Sosdam. (S/he is coughing.)	5 Jaachaama. (S/he is sneezing.)	6 gziinjaane'gan (kleenex/tissue)	7 Mooshkaneshin Dibiki Giizis (It is a full moon.)
8 gawaan'gamik (spearing shack)	9 wewebinaabii (S/he is ice fishing)	10 bkindaagan (fur pelt)	11 Biziingwepo. (There is blinding snow.)	12 Shpaagonagaa. (The snow is deep.)	13 baataawaagneshin (to be stuck in the snow)	14 E-piichiksinaa? (How cold is it?)
15 naabkawaagan (scarf)	16 bootsinan (boots)	17 mjigawanak (mittens)	18 goonibaakwat (snowball)	19 gidagoon bembizod (snowmobile [thing that drives on snow])	20 gidaagoon bimibzoschige (S/he is snowmobiling.)	21 mitigwaaking (forest)
22 mooz (moose)	23 Zhooshkwaade. (S/he is ice skating)	24 baapaashkaakji (trees make cracking sounds from the cold)	25 Naabadin. (The snow is crusted.)	26 goonigne bik (snow snake)	27 Aagamaase. (S/he is walking on snowshoes.)	28 waagosh (fox)
29 goonenhsag (snowflakes)	30 zhiingwaak (pine tree)	31 zgataagan (tinder)				

Board passes resolutions in October, November

Meetings of the Sault Tribe Board of Directors were held Oct. 18 and 25, and Nov. 1 and 8, 2022, in Sault Ste. Marie at the Kewadin Casino Hotel and Convention Center.

October 18

Resolution 2022-274:

Indian Health Services Project Summary, Sanitation Facilities Memorandum of Agreement Project BE-22-M79 — A Memorandum of Agreement was signed between the tribe and Indian Health Service for the construction of sanitation facilities to serve 12 existing homes on the tribe's reservation.

#275: Indian Health Services Planning Agreement Project BE 22-M84 — A Planning Agreement between the tribe and Indian Health Service was executed by the tribe for sewer rehabilitation in Kincheloe to serve about 35 existing homes on the tribe's reservation.

#276: U.S. Department of the Treasury Homeowner Assistance Program Policy and Terms — Approved.

#277: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development FY 2022 Community Development Block Grant Program for Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages — The board authorized Sault Tribe Housing to submit an application requesting \$1,397,500.00 for the FY 2022 Community Development Block Grant Program for Indian Tribes, administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

#278: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development FY 2022 Community Development Block Grant Program for Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages — The Housing Authority held a public meeting with residents of the Sault Ste. Marie Housing site in Sept. 2022 to provide information on energy efficient roof replacements and obtain views of the community. All comments were considered and any modifications to the proposed application made.

#279: Approving Contract Michelle Castagne — Approved starting immediately and ending Dec. 31, 2023, for providing federal policy analyst services to the tribe.

#280: Mackinac County Road Commission Cooperative Agreement — The Cooperative Agreement between Mackinac County Road Commission and the tribe was authorized for expenditures up to \$60,000, from the Transportation Maintenance Fund, cost center 2931. The tribe has contracted with the County to provide snow and ice removal and apply pure salt on certain sections of Mackinac Trail and 3 Mile Road; which the County would not otherwise be financially able to support.

#281: Authorize Contract with SRF Consulting Group, Inc., of Minnesota for Coordinated Health and Human Services Transportation Plan — The tribe has contracted with SRF Consulting Group of Minnesota, Inc., for professional consulting services to create a Coordinated Tribal Health and Human Services Transportation Plan, and

authorized expenditures up to \$170,000 from the Tribal Transit Program Fund, cost center 12461.

#282: Tribal Transportation Program – Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Establishment of FY 2023 Budget — Approved with BIA monies of \$407,491.77.

#283: Michigan Technological University U.S. Department of Transportation, University Transportation Center — The board supported Michigan Technological University's (MTU) proposed Center for Inclement Weather Adaptive Transportation University Center. The U.S. Department of Transportation Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act authorizes competitive grants to eligible non-profit institutions of higher education to establish and operate University Transportation Centers. MTU proposes to lead and collaborate with the tribe's Transportation Program and consortium members on transportation research, education, and workforce development activities.

#284: Approve Application for USDA RUS Rural eConnectivity Program, Grant and Consent to Provide Service on Tribal Lands — The board supported and recommended the submission of a grant to the Rural Utilities Service Telecommunications Program within the U.S. Department of Agriculture, for the Rural eConnectivity ("ReConnect") Program, FOA4. The board also consented to provide services on tribal lands as outlined in the application.

#285: Approve Applications for USDA Rural eConnectivity Program Grant — The board supported the submission of a grant to the Rural Utilities Service Telecommunications Program within U.S. Department of Agriculture, for the Rural eConnectivity Program, and approved the USDA-RUS ReConnect "100 Percent Grant for Alaska Native Corporations, Tribal Governments, Colonias, Persistent Poverty Areas and Socially Vulnerable Communities" class for up to the

max amount of \$25 million.

#286: Network Neutrality Standards for Rural Utilities Service Reconnect Broadband Grant — The board committed to comply with the RUS ReConnect program's eligibility requirements pertaining to network management and non-discriminatory practices.

#287: Terminating Board of Directors' Retirement Income Plan — The board authorized the termination of the Retirement Income Plan for Directors. Any participant or beneficiary already receiving benefits or eligible to receive benefits from the Retirement Income Plan will not have their benefits decreased or eliminated due to the termination of the plan; and any current board member will not be entitled to further accrual or vesting of retirement plan benefits after the end of the current calendar year.

October 25

#288: To Approve Release of Legal Memorandum to Tribal Membership — The Tribe's General Counsel prepared a legal memorandum on issues surrounding the business activities of Sault Tribe Inc. and Binesi Contracting LLC and requirements to comply with applicable tribal and federal procurement laws; and the board has decided to release the Legal Memorandum to the tribal membership and consents to the waiver of attorney-client privilege that may result from its release.

#289: Amending Resolution No. 2021-167, COVID American Rescue Act Funds-Recovery Campus Project — The board authorized an amendment to Resolution 2021-167 from the approved \$25,000,000 for a Recovery Campus and reduced the total project amount to \$5,000,000 to begin services and bring it within the scope and capability of the Health Division; for a total reduction of \$20,000,000. The board also authorized \$1,000,000 of the remaining funds to expand Traditional Medicine into their own facility. The board moved the remaining \$19,000,000 in ARPA funds to unallocated funding until a valid use can be

agreed upon by the board, based on the best interest of the tribe.

#290: Kewadin Casino Repairs and Enhancement — The board authorized \$10,000,000 of the remaining ARPA funds be transferred to Kewadin Casinos to begin repairs, to include new windows, siding, and room remodeling and renovations.

#291: Rescinding Board of Directors Resolution No. 2022-291 — The board determined that Resolution No. 2022-90, authorizing a sole source award to Binesi Contracting LLC, was not consistent with tribal and federal law governing procurement of construction services. Resolution No. 202290 was rescinded in its entirety, allowing future retention of Binesi Contracting LLC for construction management services to be done in compliance with tribal and, if applicable, federal law.

#292: Approving Forensic Audit of Sault Tribe Inc. — The board approved a forensic audit to include the review of all financial records and business activities of Sault Tribe Inc. and entities under the ownership or control of Sault Tribe Inc., including the review of all contracts awarded to Binesi Contracting LLC and other records relating to Sault Tribe Inc.'s business activities involving Binesi Contracting LLC.

#293: Forensic Audit of JKL Fiduciary Committee — The board authorizes a forensic audit of the JKL Fiduciary Committee, from the period of Jan. 1, 2014, to Sept. 30, 2022, to ensure the JKL Fiduciary Committee's funds are administered in accordance with applicable law and policies.

#294: Initiation of Consent

Decree Litigation — The board appointed Foster Garvey PC to take the primary role in Consent Decree litigation with Patterson Earnhart Real Bird & Wilson LLP, and Morisset, Schlosser, Jozwiak, & Somerville, providing litigation support.

November 1

#295: Sault Tribe Opioid Prevention and Response Establishment of FY 2023 Budget — The board approved an FY 2023 budget for Sault Tribe Opioid Prevent and Response with Federal Revenue HHS monies of \$475,000.00.

#296: ACFS – Culturally Specific Underserved Establishment of FY 2023 Budget — The board approved the FY 2023 budget for Culturally Specific Underserved with Michigan Department of HHS monies of \$132,804.00.

#297: Governmental Admin Staff and Indirect Costs FY 2022 Budget Modifications — The board approved the FY 2022 budget modification to the Governmental Admin Staff to decrease transfer in from Indirect Costs \$21,421.72 and decrease Tribal Support \$21,421.72. The board also approved the FY 2022 budget modification to Indirect Costs to decrease the transfer out to Governmental Admin Staff \$21,421.72 and decrease Tribal Support \$21,421.72.

#298: Indirect Membership Services and Indirect Costs FY 2022 Budget Modifications — The board approved the FY 2022 budget modification to the Indirect Member Services to

See "Resolutions," page 9

Home • Auto • Life • Boat
Motorcycle • RV • Motor Homes
Business • Snowmobile

NuStar
INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.
"We Cover Your Assets"
INSURANCE

906-253-1904
Bouschor & Sherman
Agents

2081 Ashmun St
Sault Ste. Marie, MI

Email: bbouschor@nustarinsurance.net
www.NuStarInsurance.net



IDA-GANT Enterprises LLC

HEALTH + WELLNESS

Catherine Gant, 269-352-6907
Email lagos8424@hotmail.com
Online Store: www.fight4u.today

Are you struggling with any of these issues?

- Awful Smell
- Moodiness
- Yeast Infections
- Heavy Bleeding & Clots
- Urinary Tract Infections
- Headaches and/or Cramping
- Painful and Uncomfortable Cycles
- Serious Menstrual Issues – Fibroid Tumors

All Natural Products

REIGN Premium Sanitary Napkins and Panty Liners



Chemical and Toxin Free

REIGN with Graphene infused strip may be the help you need:

- ✓ Relieves Stress
 - ✓ Controls Bacteria
 - ✓ Controls Inflammation
 - ✓ Eliminates Odor
 - ✓ Enhances Metabolism
 - ✓ Improves Hormone Secretion
 - ✓ Strengthens Immune System
 - ✓ Reduces Body Fatigue
 - ✓ Helps With Cramps
- "Comfortable and Dry"**

Buy 10 Get 2 Free – Contact Catherine

Board passes additional resolutions, continued from page 8

From "Resolutions," page 8
decrease expenses \$44,935.08, and also approved the FY 2022 budget modification to Indirect Costs to decrease Tribal Support \$44,935.08.

#299: Approving the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe Spatial Fire Management Plan — Approved.

#300: Sault Tribe Corporate Charter Board Appointment

Approval — The following individuals were re-appointed to the

Corporate Board of Directors of Sault Tribe Incorporated: Steve

Johnston - for a term expiring

June 30, 2025, and Alan Barr - for

a term expiring June 30, 2025.

The following individuals were

also re-affirmed for continued

appointment to the Corporate

Board of Directors of Sault Tribe

Incorporated: Dr. Madan Saluja -

for a term expiring June 30, 2023,

Rod Blanchard - for a term expir-

ing June 30, 2023, and Michael

Griggs - for a term expiring June 30, 2024.

#301: Authorization for Signature Bureau of Indian Affairs 2022 Self Governance Annual Funding Agreements — The board authorized the tribal vice-chairman or designee, to sign, negotiate, amend, and execute any agreement for the Bureau of Indian Affairs 2022 Self Governance and Tribal Transportation Programs.

#302: Appointing Workers Compensation Committee Members — The Workers Compensation Committee hears appeals from the decisions of the insurance, workers compensation, and oversees certain operations related to the insurance of the tribe. The committee is made up of one representative from the board, Legal Department, Accounting Department, Human Resources Department, and a person with an insurance background. The fol-

lowing committee members have been removed from their positions on the committee as they are no longer with the tribe: Melissa Fox-Evans, Courtney Kachur and Keith Massaway. Appointed to the committee are: the H.R. director, the tribe's Regulatory Compliance officer who will serve as the Legal Department representative, and Bridgett Sorenson will serve as the board representative.

#303: Authorize the Vice-Chairman to Enter into Contracts, and Execute Associated Documents for Construction of a Fish Catch Kettle and Drain System at Odenaang — The board supported entering into a cost share agreement with USDA-NRCS for the construction of a new drain system and catch kettle for the tribe's Odenaang pond, and authorized the vice chairman to sign contracts with USDA-NRCS and selected construction entities.

#304: USDA Reconnect Program Authorize Representative Request — Austin Lowes, vice-chairman, has the assigned Representative-Signature-Certifier security role on behalf of the tribe for the United States Department of Agriculture Reconnect Program and will have access to the online application and financial reporting and compliance system. He will be responsible for providing electronic signatures, authorizing certifications, entering and updating applications, submitting applications for consideration, and assigning access to new users in USDA's online application system for the ReConnect Program and Community Connect Grant Program.

#305: Administration for Community Living/Administration on Aging Application — The tribe's Elder Services Division was authorized to apply for and accept the Administration for Community Living/Administration on Aging funding to provide direct services to tribal elders with a funding cycle of April 1, 2023 through March 31, 2026.

#306: Authorizing a Three Percent 401(k) Non-Elective Contribution — The board authorized the addition of an annual three percent employer contribution to the tribe's 401(k) plan, regardless of an employee's discretionary contributions to the plan, to be implemented after an employee has been with the tribe for at least one year of employment. The three percent employer contribution will not be included for any person eligible for the law-enforcement MERS plan.

November 8

#307: Temporary Hold on ARPA Fund Projects — The board authorized a temporary hold on all projects being performed pursuant to board-approved appropriations of ARPA funds to each board member's unit to further address each project's compliance with federal and tribal requirements and procedures.

#308: Land Purchase for Cultural and Traditional Use — Approved

November 22

#309: Approval and Authorization of Second Addendum to Commercial Purchase Agreement and Bill of Sale Between Anderson Enterprises, Inc., and Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians — The board authorized the second addendum to a commercial purchase agreement between Anderson Enterprises, Inc. and the tribe.

#310: Approving Amended and Restated Asset Purchase Agreement for University BP Gas Station — The tribe is under contract to acquire the University BP gas station in Marquette, Michigan and personal property associated with the business operation of the gas station. The tribe and seller developed an amended purchase agreement for the gas station, incorporating key terms of the original contract while including additional terms and exhibits necessary to close on the transaction, which the board approved.

#311: Treaty Rights Retirement Plan — The Sault Tribe, along with Bay Mills Indian Community, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians and the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority is a co-sponsor of the Bay Mills Indian Community Treaty Rights Retirement Plan that was adopted on March 1, 1994 and is designed to establish a separate retirement fund for tribal-member employees who derive tax-exempt income from treaty fishing rights and activities. The plan calls for the Sault Tribe to match employee's contributions up to the Social Security limit. Stifel of Traverse City, Michigan, has been approved by the board as the financial broker for the plan with the participant's funds invested in Invesco Investment Services.

To view resolutions, visit www.saulttribe.com.

January is Cervical Cancer Awareness Month

Start the new year by raising your awareness around cervical cancer and learn what you can do to help prevent this in yourself and the other women in your life that you care for. Cervical cancer is a highly preventable cancer, and easy to treat when caught in the early stages. Keeping up-to-date on your screening with an HPV Pap Smear test, and completing the HPV vaccination series are key prevention methods for cervical cancer.

American Indian women have a higher occurrence of cervical cancer. Cervical cancer screening is often neglected if you are not reminded when it is time, as it is typically performed once every 3 to 5 years. The screening interval is dependent on your age, personal medical history, family medical history, and doctor's recommendations.

Cervical cancer screening is recommended to start in women 21 years of age and continue until you reach the age of 65. It is important to keep up-to-date on your screenings per your doctor's recommendations.

Cervical cancer screening con-

Attention uninsured women 21-65 years old — get your cervical cancer screening at no-cost to you with the BC3NP program. Contact Emily, the patient navigator of cancer screening, at (231) 268-1307, to be enrolled today.

sists of a quick test called a pap smear. This test only takes a few minutes and detects abnormal cells within the cervix through lab analysis. The results are assessed by your doctor to determine if any further testing or treatment is needed, or if you are all set until your next screening appointment in a few years.

If you are worried about the

costs of screening, follow-up appointments, or treatment for cervical cancer, the Patient Navigator of Cancer Screening—Emily—can enroll you into a free program through the state of Michigan that covers the cost. The Michigan Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Navigation Program (BC3NP) is for women who are 21-65, uninsured or underinsured, and covers breast and cervical health screenings.

To find out if you are eligible and become enrolled, call Emily at (231) 268-1307.

Enrollment takes only a few minutes, and you don't have to do any paperwork or provide any physical documents, you only need to provide some information to ensure you are eligible.

Take care of your health this New Year.

Ensure all the women in your life are staying up-to-date on important health screenings.



SOO CO-OP
CREDIT UNION

Mobile Wallet for SCCU
VISA® Credit Cards and Debit Cards.

TAP. PAY. BE ON YOUR WAY!

Apple Pay | **SAMSUNG** Pay | G Pay

Sault Ste. Marie • Brimley • Bay Mills
Kinross • Cedarville

www.soocoop.com

NCUA Insured

Humana can help you choose a Medicare plan

Find a Humana plan that fits your goals and your life

It's time to choose your 2023 Medicare plan, and Humana and I are here to help you understand your options. A Humana Medicare Advantage plan gives you everything you get with Original Medicare, and may have additional benefits and services that meet your healthcare needs. Humana offers these plans at attractive premiums.

Call a licensed independent sales agent



Kristi Harwood-Causley

906-635-5377 (TTY: 711)

Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

kristi.harwood-causley.ke8b@statefarm.com

Humana is a Medicare Advantage HMO, PPO and PFFS organization with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in any Humana plan depends on contract renewal.

Y0040_GHHHXDHEN_23_SMAD_M

Holiday stress and domestic violence increase

SUBMITTED BY THE ADVOCACY RESOURCE CENTER

Holidays and stress tend to go hand in hand. Although holidays are often expected to be all things merry and bright, the added worries and duties can cause an uptick in domestic violence situations.

With the additional stressors and money related issues, the holidays can be rather and dreadful times for those in domestic violence situations. Oftentimes, victims of domestically violent relationships tend to look past the issues at hand and make the most of the situation for their families during the holidays.

Victims tend to experience domestic abuse around major holidays due to a several factors,

including: financial struggles with holiday shopping, planning for gatherings with extended families, drugs and alcohol being abused more during holiday breaks, children being home from school, or simply being home alone with their abusers during the extended holiday time frames.

Holidays may also be stressful for children who witness their parents arguing, yelling, or being abusive to one another. Some children have reported that they would rather be in school where they feel safe preferably than being home with their families during the holiday season.

Family relationships may also be put to the test during festive get-togethers. Having to deal with the brother you don't get

along with or the aunt that can't keep her comments to herself can also cause heated situations to rise. The fact of the matter is that domestic violence is probable and can affect loved ones during the holidays.

There is never an excuse for domestic abuse and making poor choices, no matter how stressed out one may feel. Abuse is a choice and it is a crime. If you know your stress level increases during the holidays or it can negatively affect the ones you love, make steps to reduce your stress and make the best choices for your family.

If hosting the family party is too stressful, elect that someone else host it this year. If finances are the issue, ask for help from

community resources to help provide your family with gifts.

If substance abuse is the issue, attempt to make steps towards abstaining or not using substances around your family. Mental health can greatly be affected during the holidays and some may find that self medicating with substances is the best way to cope with the stressors. Although using substances does not create abuse, it lowers one's inhibitions and causes one to make poor choices.

Finding ways to eliminate stress and reduce the probability of domestic abuse is important and should be considered as the holidays approach us. Try to connect with your friends and family, talk to someone if you are feeling the effects of the holidays

or even the weather and/or seasonal depression disorders. Ask for help from others with the holiday chores; wrapping, shopping, baking, decorating to help eliminate some of the triggers of abuse or emotional outbursts. One can always contact an advocate for support during the difficult times.

The Advocacy Resource Center is available 24/7 to assist with domestic violence issues.

Advocacy Center staff wishes for health and prosperity, peace and love to all during this holiday season.

Support can be found at (906) 632-1808. Please also view our new website at www.arcsault-tribe.com to see what services are available to you.

Tribal foster parents desperately needed



Anishnaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS) has been attending various community events handing out promotional items and information to attendees. ACFS has been reaching out to the community in hopes of recruiting foster parents that are desperately needed. If you see us at any events come say hello and grab some giveaways. If you are interested in making a difference in a child's life and becoming a foster parent and/or an adoptive parent, please contact Anishnaabek Community and Family Services at (906) 632-5250 or 1 (800) 726-0093 or by email at acfs-fosterhomes@saulttribe.net.

Smith donates crocheted blankets to shelter residents

The Advocacy Resource Center would like to recognize Joann Smith of St. Ignace, Mich., who kindly donates several crocheted lap blankets to shelter residents each year.

Joann dropped off her yearly offering of blankets and hats to the Lodge of Bravery recently and said she appreciates that victims of domestic violence have a place to go when in need. Joann informed us that each blanket takes her 15 hours to create.

She also wanted us to know that in each blanket she includes the colors purple and teal. (Purple for Domestic Violence Awareness and teal for Sexual Assault Awareness). Chi miigwech, Joann. You are so appreciated!



Photo by Jess Gillotte-King

Joann Smith donates blankets and hats to ACFS each year.

TRIBAL MEMBER REGISTRATION IN THE TAX AGREEMENT AREA

TRIBAL MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

(Including the Issuance of Certificates of Exemptions)

INITIAL REGISTRATION AND OR CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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

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

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

CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTIONS

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

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

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

Choices can be tough.

Choosing a financial partner shouldn't be!



Come see what

Central Savings Bank can do for you.

Member FDIC 906-635-6250 | centralsavingsbank.com



Native American dentist honored by DAR; dental scholarships available for students

SUBMITTED BY JESSICA RICKERT, DDS

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution honored Dr. Jessica A. Rickert as a woman who has played a vital role in the history of America at its Chief Shawano Chapter. She is the First American Indian female dentist, a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

“We are honored to have the privilege of presenting these awards to such amazing women,” Chief Shawano Chapter Regent Julia Hughes said. “Not only have these women left their mark on American and Michigan History, but they’ve also made important strides in furthering the American Indian community. We could not be prouder to honor her during Native American Heritage month.”

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is a women’s service organization whose members can trace their lineage to the American Revolutionary War. Today’s DAR is dynamic and diverse, with over 185,000 members in 3,000 chapters in the United States and abroad. DAR members annually provide millions of hours of volunteer service to their local communities across the country and world. DAR chapters participate in projects to promote historic preservation, education, and patriotism. Over 1 million members have joined the organization since its founding in 1890.

For more information about this topic, visit www.dar.org.

The Daughters of the American Revolution supports scholarships, schools, and youth camp for American Indian students.

DAR American Indian Scholarship

This scholarship is awarded once a year to a Native American college and technical student of any age, any tribe and in any state who has financial need and a minimum GPA of 3.25 based on a 4.0 scale or the equivalent GPA on the scaled used by the applicable educational institution.

Applicants must be Native Americans and must be able to prove membership in a tribe that is recognized at a state or federal level. These awards are available for vocational training for undergraduate or graduate students. Preference is given to undergraduate applicants.

The amount of the scholarship is \$4,000 and more than one may be awarded each year.

Contact the National Vice Chair, American Indians Scholarship at americanindiansschol@nsdar.org.

Frances Crawford Marvin American Indian Scholarship

This scholarship is awarded once a year to one student. A candidate for this scholarship must be enrolled full time at a 2- or 4-year college or university.

Applicants must be Native Americans and proof of American Indian blood is required by

letter or proof papers. Students must demonstrate financial need, academic achievement, and have a 3.25 GPA or higher. A recipient may reapply for this scholarship and be considered along with other members of the applicant pool.

The amount of scholarship is based on total return of the endowment, and may vary year to year.

Contact the National Vice Chair, Frances Crawford Marvin Scholarship at FCMarvinAmericanIndianScholarship@nsdar.org.

Anne Trevarthen Memorial Scholarship

This one-time scholarship will be presented each April to a high-school senior who will be attending the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va. Eligible applicants must demonstrate a personal connection to Ameri-

can Indian culture and traditions, as well as evidence of personal commitment to celebrating diversity and to bridging differences between disparate groups.

Preference will be given to students who demonstrate knowledge of or involvement with one of Virginia’s state-recognized tribes. The amount of the scholarship is based on the annual return of the endowment, and may vary year to year.

To apply: For further information about this scholarship, please contact the College of William and Mary Office of Admissions at (757) 221-4223.

Disqualifications to avoid:

1. Do not apply for a scholarship unless the student’s level of education is appropriate for the scholarship.

2. Do not submit any document with the photograph of the

student visible. Please cover the photograph(s) before uploading the documents into the application. This includes passports, transcripts, resumes, and tribal cards.

3. Do not submit documents for proof of United States citizenship other than those requested.

4. Do not wait until the last minute to request recommendations. All information must be submitted by the Jan. 31 at 11:59 p.m. (Hawaii Time) deadline. No exceptions.

5. Do not submit more than a one-page resume.

6. Do not submit incomplete transcripts.

7. Do not forget to confirm that recommendations have been submitted, at least two but no more than four by the Jan. 31 deadline.

8. Do not submit the applica-

tion without all the required documents.

Grants

The following information applies to grants:

1. The purpose of the grant must be for a specific program that provides educational opportunities for Native Americans and may include formal education, healthcare programs and other topics.

2. The proposal must be VERY specific and detailed, explaining exactly how the money will be used.

3. The proposal and intent of the grant must be verifiable.

4. Proposals to be submitted to the National Chair and Division Vice Chair by Jan. 15.

For information about the Indian Youth of America Summer Camp visit: <http://indianyouthofamerica.org/>.

Join Sault Tribe Language & Culture for our Nimkodaading Jingtamok

(New Year’s Sobriety Powwow)

December 31st, 2022

3:00 PM - Through Midnight

Chi Mukwa Arena

2 Ice Circle, Sault Ste. Marie, MI

Host Drum

CoHost Drum

Emcee

Mission Hill

Four Thunders

Gerard Sagassige

Head Veteran

Head Dancers

Martin Reinhardt

Jefferson Ballew

Sonja Ballew

Prize Drawings every hour!!

Spot Dances!

Anniversary Two Step Special

Vendors Welcome, Must

Honorariums for all dancers

reserve a spot

Dinner will be served

Drum Split for all drums

Questions? Contact the Sault Tribe Language & Culture Division at 906-635-6050

2023

Mudpuppies! No we are not talking about dogs

By Paige Filice and Alexa Warwick, MSU Extension

While not as cuddly nor as playful as a fuzzy puppy, mudpuppies play an important role in our ecosystem and should be handled with care.

You might not guess it from the name, but mudpuppies (*Necturus maculosus*) are actually a species of freshwater dwelling salamander. Salamanders are a type of amphibian and unlike their noisy frog cousins, they typically make very few vocalizations. However, the mudpuppy, also called the “waterdog,” was named because of their squeaking or squealing noise that some thought sounded like a dog’s bark. Mudpuppies are one of the largest species of salamanders in Michigan and can grow to be over a foot long. Most individuals range from 8 to 13 inches. They are one of 12 salamander species found in Michigan.

Besides being large and sometimes making sound, mudpuppies are unique in that they never leave the water. Typically, most species of amphibians go through metamorphosis from a water-dwelling juvenile stage

to an adult that lives on land. Instead, the mudpuppy keeps its larval characteristics, such as its prominent and bushy external gills, making them easy to identify. Like all amphibians, mudpuppies have slimy and sensitive, permeable skin. These nighttime carnivores eat any water-dwelling invertebrates (crayfish, worms, snails) and even some vertebrates like tadpoles and small fish. They aren’t picky in their diet and will eat whatever they can catch that fits in their mouth.

Mudpuppies are native to central North America and can be found in rivers, ponds, inland lakes, and along shallow areas of the Great Lakes. They are active year-round and do not hibernate. They spend most of their time hiding near rocks, under logs, and among plants and are rarely seen during the day. In summer and winter, they live in deeper water and they move to shallower water in the spring and autumn.

Mudpuppies are often misunderstood and because they are rarely seen, it can be quite a shock to find one attached to a fishing line or spotted in shallow water. They are sometimes dis-



Photo by Matt Keevil

Mudpuppies play an important role in our ecosystem and should be handled with care. They have splotchy brown-gray skin that enables them to camouflage among leaves and rocks in the water. Another unique adaptation is their external gills which aid them in breathing.

carded or even killed because they are mistakenly thought to be poisonous, although they are not. They are also threatened by needless persecution, as some anglers kill mudpuppies in the mistaken belief that they reduce populations of game fish. However, there is no evidence they negatively impact fish populations.

Mudpuppies serve a vital role in the ecosystem and are

a source of food for aquatic predators like large fish, herons, and water snakes. Unfortunately, due to habitat loss, reduced water quality, and sensitivity to lampricides, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources elevated mudpuppies to a Species of Concern in 2016. Because of their sensitive skin, they are especially vulnerable to toxins in the water. Thus, their presence may be an indicator of

a healthy ecosystem.

Although still common in some parts of the state, mudpuppy populations are declining overall. If you are lucky enough to find one, it should not be collected or removed from the wild. Instead, you can help scientists by reporting any sightings of mudpuppies through online databases like iNaturalist (www.inaturalist.org). Keep in mind mudpuppies are active throughout the year and are more likely to be caught during ice fishing season. Anglers who catch a mudpuppy on a fishing line should gently remove the hook and return it to the water.

Interested in learning more about the wonders of lakes and how best to protect them for future generations? Participate in the Michigan State University Extension Introduction to Lakes Online course (www.canr.msu.edu/courses/introduction-to-lakes). From the comfort of your home learn about lake ecology, aquatic plants, shorelines, watersheds, and much more. The course is offered yearly and the 2023 course kicks off Jan. 10.

App review requested from Anishinaabe fish eaters

The Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan (ITCMI) in partnership with The Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) has released a Gigiigoo’inaan Application (App for iPhones, AndroidS, or similar Smart devices) to guide users in their fish eating choices throughout the Great Lakes and Bemidji Region.

Environmental exposures in the waterways such as PBT or Mercury can disturb human health. The Gigiigoo’inaan App makes personalized recommendations for safe fish consumption based on the users biological sex, weight, portion size, and the waterway where fish is coming from.

The app developed with Anishinaabe community input on the design and implementation, also features recipes for different types of fish, cooked in a way that reduces potential toxic environmental exposures.

The ITCMI and the MCW have launched a survey opportu-



nity for the Anishinaabe people to better understand fish eating habits, perceptions of health and environmental risks, and to get feedback on the app and how it’s being used.

Anishinaabe are encouraged to participate in the study by using the app and taking the online survey. The first 100 qualified participants who complete the enrollment form and survey will be compensated with a \$75 gift card for their time.

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

nificant because it addresses the need for effective fish consumption advice for the Anishinaabe whose tribal governments oversee treaty-related natural resource practices in Northern Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota.

The purpose of this project is to further understand fish consumption, Anishinaabe health beliefs, environmental concerns, and the usability of the Our Fish App. This study will help guide future programs and educational resources in the community.

This initiative is part of the 5 year project which develops culturally tailored advice to encourage consumption of low contaminated species of fish among Anishinaabe peoples and waterways.

The app was previously tested in Michigan tribal communities in 2019. It was observed that Anishinaabe fish consumers reported improved confidence, increased fish consumption and,

increased understanding of environmental health in response to the Gigiigoo’inaan “Our Fish” App.

Download the Gigiigoo’inaan “Our Fish” App on:

Apple:
<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/mcwgiigooapp/id1447081687?Is=1>

Android:
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.shorewoodtech.mealtrackerrfinal2021>

How to Participate in the study: Download the Gigiigoo’inaan “Our Fish” App (above) on an Apple or Android device.

Use the app: Submit a short enrollment form sent to the email you entered in the app.

Take the survey sent to you via email.

Those looking for more information on the Gigiigoo’inaan “Our Fish” app email: fishappcoordinator@itcmi.org.



This is what the app will look like once you have downloaded it onto your phone. Don't forget to check out the recipes too!

2023 Black Lake Sturgeon Lottery Application

Sault Tribe has an allocation of sturgeon from Black Lake in Cheboygan County in 2023. Please fill out the following application and return to Sault Tribe Natural Resource Department at: **2428 Shunk Road, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. Application must be received by 5:00 pm on December 30th, 2022.** Applications received after 5:00pm on December 30th, 2022 **WILL NOT** be accepted.

First Name Middle Name Last Name

Address City State Zip Code

File Number (Red # on Tribal ID) STS #

Date of Birth Sex Phone Number Email



Sharon Hawes (left) and Mary Stewart (right), Sault Tribe members who both work and volunteer at the Cedar Post Thrift Shop and Food Bank accepted donations. Kewadin Casino Hessel Manager Tel Fox (center) delivered canned goods and a check on behalf of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians.



(From left to right) Salvation Army Volunteer Jason Hamilton, Allen Kerridge of Kewadin Casino Sault, Eric Gilbert of The Salvation Army, Shawn Carlson and Alisha Woodard of Kewadin Casino. The Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians delivered five pallets of canned goods and a check to The Salvation Army on Dec. 7. Gilbert calculated this donation, coupled with Chippewa County Sheriff Mike Bitnar and Chippewa County Commissioner Scott Shackleton's effort, would provide the local food pantry with the resources to feed those in need for close to six months.



Allen Kerridge stocking the shelves, while Shawn Carlson delivers more.



Administrative Assistant Stephanie Segerstrom and Marketing Rep. Vicki Lindquist representing the Kewadin Casino Christmas present Dave Eglsaer with a check for the Alger Community Food Pantry in Munising. The facility, which is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays serves more than two dozen families each week.



The Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, represented by Brent Vallier (left) and Jason Gould (right) delivered all of the canned food collected Kewadin Casino St. Ignace and a generous check to the St. Ignace Food Pantry on the last day of November. Patty and Joe Thibault, who serve as president and vice-president respectively, accepted the boxes and check on the St. Ignace Food Bank's behalf. This pantry, servicing any Mackinac County resident in need, is open from 2-4 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays and helps to feed more than two dozen families each week.



The St. Vincent De Paul Food Pantry in Manistique, represented by volunteers Ron Olsen, Food Pantry Manager Kay Cousineau and Pat Mickelson hold an oversized check brought by General Manager Lisa Fisher and Marketing Rep. Abigail Galen on behalf of Kewadin Casino Manistique. The Canathon Drive in Manistique also collected nearly 1,000 pounds of canned food for this location. Cousineau estimated approximately two dozen families in Schoolcraft County visit this food pantry, open Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., each month.



Ernie and Margie Jones made sure Izabella Trosclair, 7, was the first in line to receive one of nearly 900 presents dispensed at the Big Bear parking lot on Dec. 5 and 6.



Kennedy Roe, 4, clutches her present following her meeting with Santa.



Mason Harris, 5, eagerly awaits the arrival of his gift and responds with a thumbs up.



Santa met Jasper Dewey, 5, in the parking lot during his special visit to Big Bear.



Diane McLeod-Maleport (center) coordinated gift-giving poses with Coach Claus and the the Soo Builders Bantam House Hockey Team which served as Santa's helpers during this special event.

Units I, II and III elder holiday party held at DreamMaker's Theater December 13



A view of elders dining taken from the second floor above the DreamMakers Theater.

Photo by Jared Lucas



Hard working banquet server takes elders their dinner.



Joseph Harper brings out a tray loaded with desert.



Debbie and Jim Nye, front, of Hessel prepare to dine with the Kings, Michelle and John of Sugar Island.



Patti Simi, Cindy Benson and Sheri Mastaw shared a meal at this special event.



The eldest tribal member in attendance, Edith Synett, was honored with a beautiful Pendleton blanket presented by Chairman Austin Lowes at gift-giving time. Edith is 91 years old.



Dave and Loralee Dankert of Levering, Mich.



In the Christmas mood are Deb Donn and Sue Browning.



Debra Pine, standing, with Jen Glashaw, Sharon Smith and Unit III Director Bridgett Sorenson.



Bernadette and Roger Azavedo enjoying dinner.

Photos by Scott Brand & Brenda Austin



Sault Tribe board members (L-R) Betty Freiheit, Chairman Austin Lowes, Robert McRorie, Kimberly Lee and Isaac McKechnie.



Ann Hill, her brother Paul Hill, and friend Irene Horn.



Wayne Lowes, Mary Ruth Gamelin, Theresa White, Gina White, Ruth Hackworth, Jean Cadotte, and Danny Cadotte.



Karen and Tom Johndrow, Clara Johndrow, Traci Kangas, Vida Captain, and Angie Leask.



Joan Corbiere, Marjie McCoy-Boissoneau, Ann Marie Corbiere Stott (who is visiting from Arizona), Emery Corbiere, and Wayne Corbiere.



Jim and Punky Hill, Gail and Darrell Belleau, and Karen Rutledge.



Lauri Spencer, Vernie Garlinghouse, Judy Eder, and Darlene Bouschor.



Ted and Laura Aikens, Kewadin Casino CEO Allen Kerridge, Lou and Judy Aikens, Sis and Bill McKerchie.

Hominy making camp held on Sugar Island



Photos by Sault Tribe Culture Department
Nimkii Ailing, Les Ailing, Rowan Carter, Cathy Devoy spread out hominy to clean it.



Cathy Devoy, Myla Bouschor, Audrey Ailing, and Les Ailing wash off hard wood ash from the hominy.



Loaghyn Ailing stirs the flint corn and hard wood ash so it doesn't harden.



Rowan Carter spreads out hominy to dry.



Myla Bouschor, Audrey Ailing, Les Ailing, Luna DeVoy, Loaghyn Ailing, Rowan Carter, Nimkii Ailing, and Cathy Devoy wash off hard wood ash.



Cooked hominy.

Head Start students introduced to STEAM — science, technology, engineering, arts and math



Photos by Brenda Austin

Sault Tribe Early Childhood Education Programs had a Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math (STEAM) event on Nov. 17. The event offered educational experiences for 19 families, with 56 people attending. Bay Mills Community College participated with learning activities, including one about the human body. Other activities included making kinetic sand, digging for dinosaurs with vinegar, and sensory bottles.



Walking on...

EDWIN L. "LOU" THORNE

Edwin L. "Lou" Thorne, 78 of Elmira, Mich. passed away Monday, Nov. 21, 2022, at home.



Known in the Gaylord area as "Liquid Louie," he was a well-known long time local bartender.

Born March 11, 1944 in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., he was the son of Lawrence R. and Alma M. (Kinney) Thorne. As a young man, he worked two seasons on the Great Lakes on the vessel Horace Johnson as a porter and a cook.

Lou learned his trade as a bartender from his foster father who owned a bar. He lived in St. Ignace, Mich. for several years, where he worked as a bartender at the Cabaret. He also worked at the Embers in Mackinaw City, Mich. for a few years.

In 1985, Lou and his wife, Beverly, moved to Gaylord where he became well known and loved by his customers at the Raindancer, Tip Top, the Otsego Club's Logmark bar, the Bearded Dogg, Rascal Jacks and Café 32. Having once left the Logmark, customer demand took him back there again. After retiring, Lou enjoyed helping Bev at the many craft shows at which she displayed her work. Lou became an artist in his own right as a self-taught painter and sculptor. He would often create paintings of customers at craft shows. In his spare time, he loved spending time with his family and helping others in need of a helping hand.

Lou is survived by his wife, Beverly; his children, Jean Ann (Tom) Colebank of Coleman, Mich. and Cliff Thorne of Elmira; grandchildren, Steven (Amanda) Bate, Patrick (Kimberly) Bollinger, John (Andrea) Bollinger, Dillon (Bri) Bollinger; and four great grandchildren. He is also survived by brothers and sisters, Monica Aungulo, Delores Blanchard, Don (Pat) Thorne, Robert (Peg) Thorne, and Vic (Karen) Thorne, and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by a son, John Allen Thomas in 1983; and brothers, Lawrence Thorne Jr., and Jim Thorne.

A memorial service was held on Dec. 8, 2022, at the Gaylord Community Funeral Home and Cremation Service. Those who wish are asked to consider memorial contributions in Lou's memory to the Elmira Fire Department. Please share your memories and personal messages with the family at www.gaylordfuneralhome.com.

WILLIAM J. SPLAN

William J. Splan, 94, of Janesville, Wisc. died Wednesday Nov. 23, 2022 at Agrace Hospice in Janesville. He was born June 7, 1928 to the late Tanjore Splan and Veronica Maki



(Cadreau) in St. Ignace, Mich.

Bill married Alice Moody on Dec. 31, 1947 in Camden, Georgia. He enlisted into the U.S. Navy in 1947 and served his Country until his honorable discharge in 1949. Bill worked at GM in Janesville as a Journeyman Millwright for many years until his retirement in 2000 at the age of 72. Bill was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and of the UAW Local 95. He enjoyed hunting and fishing with his sons and grandsons. Bill was also an avid gardener and crossword aficionado. He will be remembered for having a long and loving marriage of 74 years to his "bride" Alice Mae. Together they built a strong, large, loving family.

Bill is survived by his wife, Alice Splan; four of his children, Ronald (Joyce) Splan of Beloit, Wisc., Carolyn (David) Cohen of West Bloomfield, Mich., Michael (Kelly Reed) Splan of Kansas City, Kan. and John Splan of Belvidere, Ill; his brother Erland Splan of Waterford, Mich.; 10 grandchildren, 18 great grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his two brothers Tanjore Splan and Ronald Splan, and his two sons, Tanjore Splan and William Joseph Splan Jr.

Per Bill's wishes, a memorial service for the family will be scheduled in the spring of 2023. In lieu of flowers the family asks that memorial donations be made to Agrace Hospice, <https://www.agrace.org/donate/>.

Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared on the funeral home website. Brian Mark Funeral & Cremation Care: www.brianmarkfh.com.

GLORIA MARIE BALDWIN

Gloria Marie Baldwin (Ermatinger), 93, passed away on Nov. 22, 2022, at Resthaven Care Center surrounded by her loving daughters after an arduous battle with Alzheimer's.



Gloria was born in Detroit, Mich., on July 24, 1929, and grew up in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., during the Great Depression. Gloria married Donald Baldwin in 1950 and moved to Kansas City where Don attended veterinary school. Gloria worked at the college to support Don and begin a family.

Gloria and Don had three children. In 1975, Gloria and the children moved to Holland, Mich., to be close to her family. She worked at BASF until 1993 when she retired and pursued her new passion of gardening. She took great pleasure in the beauty of the flowers and the physical work of maintaining her treasured home. Neighbors marveled at her colorful flowers and manicured yard. She delighted in her time spent with grandson Sean and was so very proud of him. She loved her daughters with all her heart and was so grateful for the men they married. She was happy

being with family and friends, sitting on the swing and sipping a beer. She enjoyed music and loved to dance. Music continued to comfort her over many years with dementia.

She is survived by her daughters and sons-in-law, Debbie and Jerry Hill, and Marianne and Doug Cunningham. She is also survived by her brother and sister-in-law, John and Doris Ermatinger, and her sister, Linda Buza, along with many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her cherished son Eric Baldwin, and precious grandson Sean Hill. She was also preceded by her beloved mother Marion Ermatinger, her father Reginald Ermatinger, and older brothers, Jimmy, and Billy Ermatinger.

Gloria requested no funeral service but instead wanted a festive celebration of life to share stories, food, and fun. The celebration is planned for the summer of 2023, with the date to be determined.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Resthaven Care Center, 280 West 40th Street, Holland, MI 49423, or Hospice of Holland, 270 Hoover Blvd., Holland, MI 49423. Gloria resid-

ed at Resthaven for 11 years. The staff became like family and always treated her with the utmost respect and dignity. We will be forever grateful for years of keeping her safe and the devotion they gave to mom.

All were fortunate to have known such a sassy, fun, and independent woman with a generous spirit, and blessed to be part of her life. Gloria will be greatly missed. Spread your wings, Mama!

FRANCES (LEE) TADGERSON KOKKO-FIKE

Frances (Lee) Tadgerson Kokko-Fike, a member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, died peacefully at age 97, on Monday, Nov. 28, 2022, at Long Term Care, War Memorial Hospital, after a long battle with dementia. She was born June 23, 1925, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., and lived most of her life in Sault Ste. Marie.



Becoming a widow at a young age, Frances accomplished her

dream to become a social worker. She received her bachelor's degree from Lake Superior State University and her master's degree at the age of 60 from Michigan State University. She began her work as an MSW for the Sault Tribe and completed her career at Chippewa County Mental Health. She loved her work and was very successful in making a positive difference for countless people. She never met a stranger without a smile.

She was preceded in death by husbands Raymond Tadgerson Sr., Eino Kokko, Raymond Fike, Daniel Fike, and two children at birth Rachael and Allan, brother Raymond Lee, and parents Benjamin and Mary Lee.

She is survived by her son, Raymond (Dianne) Tadgerson Jr., daughters Sharon (Lloyd Berryman) Wickner, and Mary Jean (Terry) Patzwald. Also survived by grandchildren Chris (Julie) Tadgerson, Scott (Jan) Tadgerson, Glen Wickner, Matthew (Vanessa) Patzwald, Rebecca Patzwald, and Morgan Patzwald, and 11 great grandchildren.

Visitation and funeral services were held on Dec. 5, 2022 at See "Walking on," page 18

SAULT TRIBE COMMUNITY HEALTH

Snowshoe Outings

With a Healthy Snack

Monday January 9th	3:00-5:00pm	Big Bear Arena Trail
Monday February 13th	3:00-5:00pm	Big Bear Arena Trail

Snowshoes are available

Enjoy soup shots prepared by our Registered Dieticians & tea from Traditional Medicine!

Participants will receive a small thermos

Must be Sault Tribe Member

NO REGISTRATION NECESSARY. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL SAULT TRIBE COMMUNITY HEALTH AT (906) 632-5210.

Supported by the Sault Tribe TPWIC Grant, SDPI Grant, Traditional Medicine Program, and Big Bear Arena

Social Security benefits will increase in 2023

BY VONDA VAN TIL, SOCIAL SECURITY PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

Approximately 70 million Americans will see an 8.7% increase in their Social Security benefits and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments in 2023. On average, Social Security benefits will increase by more than \$140 per month starting in January.

Federal benefit rates increase when the cost-of-living rises, as measured by the Department of Labor's Consumer Price Index (CPI-W). The CPI-W rises when inflation increases, leading to a higher cost-of-living. This change means prices for goods and services, on average, are higher. The cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) helps to offset these costs.

We will mail COLA notices throughout the month of December to retirement, survivors, and disability beneficiaries, SSI recipients, and representative payees. But if you want to know your new benefit amount sooner, you can securely obtain your Social Security COLA notice online using the Message Center in your personal my Social Security account. You can access this information in early December, prior to receiving the mailed notice. Benefit amounts will not be available before December. Since you will receive the COLA notice online or in the mail, you don't need to contact us to get your new benefit amount.

If you prefer to access your COLA notice online and not

receive the mailed notice, you can log in to your personal my Social Security account to opt out by changing your Preferences in the Message Center.

You can update your preferences to opt out of the mailed COLA notice, and any other notices that are available online. Did you know you can receive a text or email alert when there is a new message waiting for you? That way, you always know when we have something important for you – like your COLA notice. If you don't have an account yet, you must create one by Nov. 15, 2022 to receive the 2023 COLA notice online.

"Medicare premiums are going down and Social Security benefits are going up in 2023, which will give seniors more peace of mind and breathing room. This year's substantial Social Security cost-of-living adjustment is the first time in over a decade that Medicare premiums are not rising and shows that we can provide more support to older Americans who count on the benefits they have earned," Acting Commissioner Kilolo Kijakazi said.

Be among the first to know! Sign up for or log in to your personal my Social Security account today. Choose email or text under "Message Center Preferences" to receive courtesy notifications.

You can find more information about the 2023 COLA at www.ssa.gov/cola.

Vonda Van Til is the Public Affairs Specialist for West

Michigan. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 3045 Knapp NE, Grand Rapids MI 49525 or via email at vonda.vantil@ssa.gov.

Questions and Answers:

Question: I'm retiring early, at age 62, and I receive investment income from a rental property I own. Does investment income count as earnings?

Answer: No. We count only the wages you earn from a job or your net profit if you're self-employed. Non-work income such as annuities, investment income, interest, capital gains, and other government benefits are not counted and will not affect your Social Security benefits. Most pensions will not affect your benefits. However, your benefit may be affected by government pensions earned through work on which you did not pay Social Security tax.

You can retire online at www.ssa.gov.

For more information, call us toll-free at 1(800) 772-1213 (TTY 1 (800) 325-0778).

Question: What is the benefit amount a spouse may be entitled to receive?

Answer: If you are eligible for both your own retirement benefit and for benefits as a spouse, we will always pay you benefits based on your record first. If your benefit as a spouse is higher than your retirement benefit, you will receive a combination of benefits equaling the higher spouse's benefits. A spouse generally receives one-half of the retired worker's full benefit unless the spouse begins

collecting benefits before full retirement age. If the spouse begins collecting benefits before full retirement age, the amount of the spouse's benefit is reduced by a percentage based on the number of months before he or she reaches full retirement age. For example, based on the full retirement age of 66, if a spouse begins collecting benefits:

At age 65, the benefit amount would be about 46 percent of the retired worker's full benefit.

At age 64, it would be about 42 percent.

At age 63, 37.5 percent.

At age 62, 35 percent.

However, if a spouse is taking care of a child who is either under age 16 or disabled and receives Social Security benefits on the same record, a spouse will get full benefits, regardless of age. Learn more by reading our *Retirement* publication at www.ssa.gov/pubs/10035.html.

Question: I receive retirement benefits, but I also still work. How much can I earn and still collect full Social Security retirement benefits?

Answer: Social Security uses the formulas below, depending on your age, to determine how much you can earn before we must reduce your benefit: If you are younger than full retirement age: \$1 in benefits will be deducted for each \$2 you earn above the annual limit.

In the year you reach your full retirement age: \$1 in benefits will be deducted for each \$3 you earn above a different limit, but we count only earnings

before the month you reach full retirement age.

Starting with the month you reach full retirement age: You will get your benefits with no limit on your earnings.

Find out your full retirement age at www.ssa.gov/pubs/ageincrease.htm.

Question: I want to make sure I have enough credits to receive Social Security retirement benefits when I need them. How can I get a record of my Social Security earnings?

Answer: The best way for you to check whether you have earned enough credits (40 total, equaling 10 years of work) is to open a free *my Social Security* account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount to review your *Social Security Statement* any time you want.

Once you create an account, you can:

Keep track of your earnings to make sure your benefit is calculated correctly. The amount of your payment is based on your lifetime earnings.

Get an estimate of your future benefits if you are still working.

Get a replacement SSA-1099 or SSA-1042S.

Get a letter with proof of your benefits if you currently receive them.

Manage your benefits:

Change your address.

Start or change your direct deposit.

Accessing *my Social Security* is quick, convenient, and secure, and you can do it from the comfort of your home.

Walking on continued...

From "Walking on," page 17 St. Mary's Pro-Cathedral with Father Romeo Cappella officiating. Burial will be at Hillcrest Cemetery in Racoon, Mich., in the spring.

The family wishes to thank the very compassionate teams at Hearthside Assisted Living and War Memorial Hospital Long Term Care for the loving, professional care given to Frances. In lieu of flowers the family requests memorial contributions be made in her name to Chippewa County Animal Shelter, 3660 S. Mackinac Trail, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. Online condolences may be left at www.galerfuneral-homes.com

Clark Hovie Galer Funeral Home assisted the family with arrangements.

DEBRA C. "DEBBIE" NETCHKE

Debra C. "Debbie" (nee Mitchell) Netchke died Friday, Nov. 18, 2022 at the age of 60.

She was predeceased by her parents, Lawrence and Luella Mitchell; her sisters, Janet Sarbou and Lyndell Zanker; father and mother-in-law, Ken and Myra Netchke. She is survived by her loving husband of 36 years, Bill Netchke; sons,



William (Taylor), Bradley (Staci) and Ryan Netchke; grandsons, Andy and Oliver Netchke; siblings, Karen Sabatine, Jack (Heidi) Mitchell, Susan (Tim) Dougherty, Ronald (Mickey) Mitchell, Diane (Scott) Miller, Sally (Rick) Horncastle, William (Sue) Mitchell, Tammy (Jim) Elkins and Becky (Mike) Woodard; several nieces and nephews; many friends from East Irondequoit School District, her Target family (17 years), Laurelton Volunteer Fire Department and Netsins.

Bill and Debbie owned Netsins Ice Cream together for many years. Debbie was also Past President of the Ladies Auxiliary at Laurelton Fire Department.

Family and friends gathered Nov. 28 at the Profetta Funeral Chapel in Webster, N.Y. Debbie's Celebration of Life was held on her birthday, Tuesday, Nov. 29, with interment following at Irondequoit Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Lipson Cancer Center.

MARY ANN IGNATIA CARR

Mary Ann Ignatia Carr, 86, of Cedarville, Mich., died at MyMichigan Medical Center in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., on Dec. 1, 2022. She was born in Sault Ste. Marie on May 1, 1936, to Lyle and Margaret (Mertaugh) McLeod.

Mary Ann grew up in Hessel, Mich., and was the Salutatorian of her 1954 Cedarville High

School class. She married her sweetheart Ernest "Bud" Carr in 1955, and they began their family. Once their children were all in

school, she began working for the Community Action Agency in 1971. She was the cook for all the senior citizen meals in the Cedarville and Hessel area until 1988, when she moved to Charlevoix, Mich. She worked for the Charlevoix Hospital as the cafeteria cook and worked at the local Glens. After Ernest's death in 1993 she moved back to Cedarville. She worked a few years at Cedarville Foods before retiring in 1997.

Mary Ann was a member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians and the Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church.

She enjoyed sewing, reading, playing Rummy, cross stitch, cooking, baking, and gardening. She cherished spending as much time with her very special children and grandchildren. She also enjoyed visiting with her friends and relatives "the Coffee Clutch".

Mary Ann is survived by her daughter, Sheila "Flip" (Mark) Tejkl of Lyons, Ohio; sons, Terry "Tote" (Lisa) Carr of Marinette, Wisc., and Pat "Toolie" (Carrie) Carr of Hessel; grandchildren, Angie (Bruce) Westenfelder,



Matt (Alecia) Szymanski, Cassandra Carr, Alexandra Carr, and Paige Carr; great-grandchildren, Karson, Hailey, Mya, Ava, Mason, Ethan, and Isaac; sister, Angela (Jack) Porco of Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., Canada; sister-in-law, Marilynn McLeod of Hessel, along with many nieces and nephews.

Mary Ann is preceded in death by her husband, Ernest Carr; son, Robert "Skin" Carr; daughter, Marla "Boog" Carr; grandson, Joseph Carr; siblings, Michael McLeod, Frances "Geet" McLeod, Thomas "Tuck" McLeod, William (Doris) McLeod, Janie Hobbs, and Adrienne (Jay) Smith. In honor of Mary Ann's wishes, a Celebration of Life will be held in May 2023.

Galer Funeral Home & Cremation in Pickford, Michigan, is serving the family. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.galerfuneral-homes.com.

JOHN L. BLACK III

John L. Black III passed away on June 20, 2022.

He was the son of John and Norma (Robbins) Black. He was born in Battle Creek, Mich. on Sept. 16, 1952, and he spent his entire life there except for a tour as an MP in Germany at the time of the Olympics.

John was an enigma.

He is survived by his sister, Valerie (Black) Kewley, her husband, Brian and a niece, Sarah Kewley. He was loved by his two aunts: Edwina (Robbins) Randall of Battle Creek and Wenona (Robbins) Hess and her husband, Lucas, of Sacramento, Calif.

John was proud of his heritage. He resembled his great-great grandfather, Norman Williams. Tall dark and handsome with a mustache, too (Papa she).

John was interred at Fort Custer National Cemetery where his Uncle Richard C. Randall of the U.S. Navy, a person John idolized, also was laid to rest.

May they rest in peace.

IN BUSINESS FOR 45 YEARS

FLOWERS' AUTO SERVICE

LICENSED MASTER MECHANIC

(906) 632-8074

3750 East 5 Mile

Sault Tribe Thrive business directory

Thank you to all Sault Tribe member-owned businesses who have reached out and contacted us. 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. We will update the list as needed to ensure new members and changes are seen consistently. The Sault Tribe Thrive office is here to help all Sault Tribe member-owned businesses. Check out our 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.

14 PEWS Cressandra Thibodeaux Houston, TX 77009 (310) 880-3907 info@14pews.com https://14pews.org/pages/home.asp Media/Entertainment	Barbeaux Fisheries Paul Barbeaux De Tour Village, MI 49725 (906) 297-5969 barbeauxfish@gmail.com Farming/Fishing	(906) 430-7323 burnsidecreations1@gmail.com Retail	https://www.cottageup.org/ Retail	(906) 789-9796 jody@dressup906.com http://www.dressup906.com/ Retail
3rd Run Delivery Robert (Bob) Blanchard Austin, TX 78240 (847) 525-0197 jenn.anderson@3rdrun.com Food & Beverage	Bay Area Demolition Kris Wood Interlochen, MI 49683 (231) 709-5895 bayareademopros@gmail.com https://northernmichigandemolition.com Construction	C.H. Marine Service Chris Hank Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 203-6396 chmarineservices@gmail.com https://www.facebook.com/CHMarineServices/ Transportation	Creative Change Associates Alan Barr Manistique, MI 49854 (906) 286-1922 alanb@creativechange.org http://www.creativechange.org/ Consulting	Eagle's Dream Rachel Mandelstamm Greensboro, NC 47406 (989) 385-2129 eaglesdream2@yahoo.com https://www.facebook.com/eaglesdream2/ Arts/Culture
517 Coffee Company Jaime Ladronka Lansing, MI 48911 (517) 574-5573 the517coffeeco@gmail.com https://www.517coffeecompany.com/ Food & Beverage	Bay Pharmacy Douglas Goudreau St. Ignace, MI 49781 (906) 643-7725 bayrxsi@gmail.com https://www.mygnp.com/pharmacies/bay-pharmacy-st-ignace-mi-49781/ Healthcare	Calderwood Enterprises Fred Sliger Trout Creek, MI 49967 (906) 852-3232 fredsliger@jamadots.com https://calderwoodenterprises.com/ Manufacturing	Creative Memories Janet Hess Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 630-3878 jhess4cm@hotmail.com https://www.creativememories.com/user/JanetHess Arts/Culture	Eagle HVAC Services Bryan Goudreau Garden, MI 49835 (906) 450-0408 groundsourcchtg@gmail.com www.eaglehvacservices.com Construction
Above The Bridge Outdoors Morgan Gelinas Curtis, MI 49820 (906) 287-0903 abovethebridgeoutdoors@gmail.com www.abovethebridgeoutdoors.com Other	Belonga's Plumbing and Heating Steven Belonga St. Ignace, MI 49781 (906) 430-0672 spaquinbph18@gmail.com Utilities	Carrow Super Market Eddie Carrow Farwell, MI 48622 (989) 588-2965 carrowsmkt@hotmail.com https://www.carrowsmarket.com/ Retail	Credence HR Michael DiAngelo Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A5A8 (705) 542-7208 michael@credencehr.ca http://www.credencehr.ca/ Business Services	Eagle Specialties Taryn Sulkes Detroit, MI 48227 (313) 638-6640 Ext 1 taryn@es-us.com https://es-us.com/ Construction
Above The Roots Melanie Spencley East Lansing, MI 48823 (517) 803-5105 atrootsmi@gmail.com https://www.abovetherootsmi.com/ Retail	Benoit's Glass and Lock Rick Benoit Escanaba, MI 49829 (906) 786-5281 benoitglass@gmail.com https://www.facebook.com/pages/Benoits-Glass-Lock/126579080731438 Construction	Caster Construction Ed Caster Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 635-3550 elcasterconstruction@gmail.com https://www.casterconstruction.com/ Construction	Crooked Music Zack Crook Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 259-7400 crookedmusicstore@gmail.com https://www.facebook.com/CrookedMusicStore/ Arts/Culture	East Michigan Native Plants, LLC Angela Nelson Durand, MI 48429 (810) 333-7501 info@eastmichnatives.com https://www.eastmichnatives.com/ Farming/Fishing
Allegra Printing Roger Leask Traverse City, MI 49686 (231) 632-4448 roger@allegratc.com https://www.allegramarketingprint.com/locations/traverse-city-mi Marketing/Advertising	Blondeau Construction Matt Blondeau Marquette, MI 49855 (906) 362-6288 mattblondeau@gmail.com http://www.blondeauconstruction.com/ Construction	Castle of Wood Nick Deplonty Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 748-0739 nickdeplonty@gmail.com https://www.facebook.com/CastleofWood Hospitality	D & S Custom Upholstry Dwayne Lehn Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 748-1047 dwaynel91@gmail.com https://www.facebook.com/D-S-Custom-Upholstery-143701853133290/ Retail	Eversons Furnishings Jimmy Everson St. Ignace, MI 49781 (906) 643-7751 info@eversonsfurniture.com https://eversonsfurniture.com/ Retail
American Dream Builders Gary Valier Kalamazoo, MI 49009 (269) 365-1969 garyadbslm@hotmail.com Construction	Blondeau Properties Matthew Blondeau Marquette, MI 49855 (906) 362-6288 mattblondeau@gmail.com http://www.blondeauconstruction.com/ Construction	Clear From Here Jennifer Jesperson North Hollywood, CA 91601 (818) 415-9025 jennifer.jesperson@mac.com Media/Entertainment	Dance of the Sun Day Spa Dawn Cremeans Marquette, MI 49855 (906) 249-9084 hello@danceofthesun.com www.danceofthesun.com Hospitality	Fast & Secure Towing & Recovery Ronald McClusky Jr. Pontiac, MI 48340 (248) 993-3632 ronaldalcar@gmail.com Transportation
Anchor Systems Frederick Carr Kincheloe, MI 49788 (906) 240-1180 advantage@anchorsystems.tech https://anchorsystems.tech/ InformationTechnology	Bloom Co. David Lockhart Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 201-0861 shop@bloomcosault.com www.bloomcosault.com Retail	CompHoppers Vickie Griggs Livingston, TX (337) 739-3664 comphoppers@comphoppers.com www.comphoppers.com Recreation	DeMawating Development Theresa Germain Kincheloe, MI 49788 (906) 498-9800 tgermain@saulttribe.net https://demawatingdevelopment.com/ Other	Feathers Upholstery Emily McGeary Escanaba, MI 49829 (906) 446-3406 mcemily451@gmail.com Apparel
Ashmun Creek Apartments Randy McGahey Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 632-4470 ashmuncreek@sbcglobal.net https://www.ashmuncreek.com/ Real Estate	Blue Harbor Fish & Seafood Lori Parkinson Green Bay, WI 54313 (920) 435-4633 blueharborfish@yahoo.com http://www.blueharborfish.com/ Farming/Fishing	Contain A Pet of Eastern Upper Peninsula Melinda Menard Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 290-0478 capofeup@yahoo.com http://containapetofeup.com/ Recreation	Derusha Construction David Derusha Ashland, WI 54806 (715) 730-0734 derushaconstruction@yahoo.com https://www.facebook.com/Derusha-Construction-102913544455689/ Construction	Floor Masters Art Derry Dafer, MI 49724 (906) 322-0252 art.derry@yahoo.com Construction
AZ Fresh Start Cleaning Richard Oran III Yuma, AZ 85565 (928) 304-6632 azfreshstartcleaning@gmail.com https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100033470683369 Janitorial Services	Bonacci Contracting Carmine Bonacci Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 632-1425 bonacci10@gmail.com Construction	Coonen Law Rose Coonen Grand Rapids, MI 49525 (616) 951-1531 rcoonen@coonen-law.com https://coonen-law.com/ Business Services	Dream Catchers Consulting Bill Pemble Williamston, MI 48895 (517) 243-2877 pemblew@gmail.com http://dreamcatchers.tech/ Consulting	Flowers Automotive James Flowers Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 632-8074 flowersautoservice@gmail.com Transportation
	Burnside Creations Lisa Burnside Hessel, MI 49745	Cottage UP Thomas Clark St. Ignace, MI 49781 (906) 298-2298 cottageup@outlook.com	Dress up and Tuxedo Jody Bugay Escanaba, MI 49829	Franks Place Dawn Bumstead Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 440-4457 dawn@franksplace.biz Food & Beverage

From "Directory," page 19

Gitche Gume Handcrafted Jewelry
Gina Harmon
Newberry, MI 49868
(906)293-3625
ginavgc@gmail.com
<https://www.lakesuperiorpendants.com/index.php?page=HomeArts/Culture>

Gitchi Enterprises
Todd Olmstead
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
(906) 203-4491
mikebrownsells@gmail.com
<https://gitchiauto.com/Transportation>

Good Fruit Video
Justin Caine
East Lansing, MI 48823
(517) 708-3809
justin@goodfruitvideo.com
<https://www.goodfruitvideo.com/about/Media/Entertainment>

Great Lakes Drone Service
Kyle McPhee
Lansing, MI 48821
(517) 819-5542
greatlakesdroneservice@gmail.com
www.greatlakesdroneservice.com/Media/Entertainment

Great Lakes Flooring Specialists
Julie Roberts
Galesburg, MI 49053
(269) 207-2340
julie@greatlakesflooring.net
Construction

Great Lakes Roofing & Insulation Systems
Craig Miller
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
(906) 647-2916
info@greatlakesroofing.com
<http://greatlakesroofing.com/Construction>

Greene Environmental Services
Mike Greene
Livonia, MI 48154
(734) 272-8434
mgreene@greeneenvironmentalservices.com
<https://greeneenvironmentalservices.com/Environmental>

Gus' Gourmet Nuts
Dustin Denkins
Manistique, MI 49854
(906) 644-2548
dustin@denkins.net
<http://www.dustindenkins.com/Food & Beverage>

Hakola Logging
Tate Hakola
Rudyard, MI 49780
(906) 440-0842
hakolaj@michigan.gov
Environmental

Hakola Porta John Service and Rental
Tony Hakola
Cedarville, MI 49719
906-430-8058
tonyhakola@hotmail.com
<https://www.hakolaportajohn.com/Environmental>

Hand Trucking
Andrew Garvin
Mount Pleasant, TX 75455
(469) 403-5930
persevere12@yahoo.com
Transportation

Herbal Lodge
Nathan Wright

Petoskey, MI 49770
(231) 622-9063
native14u@yahoo.com
www.herballodge.com
Retail

Hilltop Bar & Restaurant
Brandon Mckerchie
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
(906) 259-2621
mckerchiebrandon@yahoo.com
<https://www.facebook.com/sugarislandhilltop/Food & Beverage>

Horn's Odds & Ends
Irene Horn
St. Ignace, MI 49781
(906) 984-2189
mhorn517@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/hornsoddsnendsRetail>

Hucks Pub
Tate Hakola
Rudyard, MI 49780
(906) 442-1042
hakolaj@michigan.gov
<https://hucks-pub-grill.business.site/Food & Beverage>

Hunt's Maintenance & Services
Tyson Hunt
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
(906) 748-1920
tysonhunt2019@gmail.com
Janitorial Services

Innes Welding & Repair
David Innes
Brimley, MI 49715
(906) 440-5364
thepropmaster@hotmail.com
Manufacturing

Irwin Group
Mitch Irwin
East Lansing, MI 48826
(517) 896 6875
irwinmitch@gmail.com
Real Estate

ISHPI
Earl Bowers
Suffolk, VA 23435
(757) 809-2302
info@ishpi.net
<http://ishpi.net/InformationTechnology>

Iversons Outdoors
Jim Baker
Munising, MI 49862
(906) 452-6370
orders@iversonssnowshoes.com
<https://iversonssnowshoes.com/Retail>

IvyTek
Michael Griggs
St. Johns, FL 32259-4453
(337) 212-0994
sandy@ivytek.com
www.ivytek.com
InformationTechnology

JETA Corporation
Linda Grow
Neenah, WI 54957-0336
(920) 486-7072
sales@jetacorp.com
<http://jetacorp.com/Shipping/Distribution>

Jose's Cantina
Allecia Gallo
St. Ignace, MI 49781
(906) 643-1519
gualoca619@gmail.com
<https://joses-cantina.business.site/Food & Beverage>

Kewadin Casinos
Allen Kerridge
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
1-800-539-2346

akerridge@saulttribe.net
<https://www.kewadin.com/Hospitality>

Kings Fish Market
Sally Schultz
Naubinway, MI 49762
(906) 477-6311
benschultz3134@gmail.com
Farming/Fishing

Kristi Harwood-Causley State Farm Insurance
Kristi Harwood-Causley
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
(906) 635-5377
kristi@teamkristi.com
<https://www.teamkristi.com/Insurance>

LaJoie Truck Service & Fabrication
Marty Lajoie
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
(906) 647-3209
ltsf1@yahoo.com
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100088037838388Transportation>

Lockview Restaurant
Amy Goetz
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
(906) 632-2772
lockview2019@gmail.com
<https://www.thelockviewrestaurant.net/Food & Beverage>

Long Ships Motel
Scott Albon
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
(906) 632-2422
scotty_joce@yahoo.com
Hospitality

Ludington Outdoor Services
Caleb Bowman
Ludington, MI 49431
(231) 690-1002
calebbowman1982@gmail.com
Environmental

M&M Fisheries
Lynn Rickley
St. Ignace, MI 49781
(734) 516-6536
lynnrickley63@gmail.com
Farming/Fishing

Mackinaw Trail Winery & Brewery
Laurie Stabile
Petoskey, MI 49970
(231) 487-1910
stabilelaurie@gmail.com
<https://www.mackinawtrailwinery.com/Food & Beverage>

Manleys Famous Smoked Fish
Don Wright
St. Ignace, MI 49781
(906) 643-8930
dwright@clmcaa.com
<https://www.facebook.com/Manleysfishmarket/Farming/Fishing>

Mark & Sons Plumbing and Heating
Lewis Mullins
St. Ignace, MI 49781
(906) 643-9597
markandsonsp@gmail.com
Utilities

Massey Fish Company
Jamie Massey Sr.
St. Ignace, MI 49781
(906) 984-2148
masseysfish@gmail.com
<http://www.masseyfish.com/Farming/Fishing>

Masta Performance
Daniel Masta
Milford, MI 48380

(248) 685-8710
mastaperformance@gmail.com
www.mastaperformance.com
Manufacturing

Matsons Fisheries
Katy Matson
Munising, MI 49862
(906) 202-0025
matsonfish@yahoo.com
Farming/Fishing

McCabes Quality Flooring
William/Bill McCabe
Marquette, MI 49855
(906) 228-8821
mccabesflooring@aol.com
<https://www.mccabesflooring.com/Construction>

McGahey Construction
Randall McGahey
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
(906) 440-6305
ashmuncreek@sbcglobal.net
<https://kyle-mcgahey-g7ez.squarespace.com/Construction>

Medical Arts Optical
Melanie Cook
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
(906) 632-2289
melaniebea@aol.com
<https://www.melaniecookhearingaids.com/Healthcare>

Mesick Market
Carl Brasseur
Mesick, MI 49668
(231) 342-4245
carlbrasseur@gmail.com
Retail

Midjim Convenience Stores
Jamie MacDonald
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
(906) 635-4782
jmacdonald@saulttribe.net
<https://www.saulttribe.com/enterprises/midjimRetail>

Midway General Store
Erica Kemeny
Wetmore, MI 49895
(919) 621-8998
kemenyerica@gmail.com
Retail

Mikes Garage
Mike Cook
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
(906) 635-5755
mikemike1962@hotmail.com
<http://mikes-garage-sault-ste-marie.edan.io/Transportation>

MI Playground
Nick Behling
Jensen, MI 49428
(616) 201-8731
nick@enjoymiplayground.com
enjoymiplayground.com
Media/Entertainment

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

Moofinfries
Laura Flatt
Naubinway, MI 49762
(906) 630-6932
moofinfries@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/moofinfriesFood & Beverage>

Moore Trosper Construction
Ted Moore
Holt, MI 48842
(517) 694-6310

tmoore@mooretrosper.com
<http://mooretrosper.com/Construction>

Mountainside Apartments
Marijo Beckman
Boyne Falls, MI 49713
(231) 330-1992
mjobeckman1@gmail.com
<https://www.mountainsidegrille-boyne.com/Real Estate>

Mountainside Grille
Marijo Beckman
Boyne Falls, MI 49713
(231) 330-1992
mountainsidegrille@hotmail.com
<https://www.mountainsidegrille-boyne.com/Food & Beverage>

Mullenbrock & Associates
Craig Mullenbrock
Piqua, OH 45356
(937) 773-8500
cmullenbrock@woh.rr.com
mullenbrockassociates.com
Financial Services

Muscotts Painting
James Muscott
Petoskey, MI 49770
(231) 342-7055
jamesmuscott@hotmail.com
www.muscottspainting.com
Construction

National Painting Contractors (MBE)
James McClusky
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
(828) 989-1395
nationalpaintingcontractors@gmail.com
<https://nationalpaintingcontractors.business.site/Construction>

Native American Church of Turtle Island
David Gaskin
Redding, CA 96001
52 (984) 114-2145
davidgaskin4@gmail.com
<https://www.nacturtleisland.org/Not For Profit>

Native Steel Welding & Fab
Trystan Ferris
Moran, MI 49760
(906) 430-7816
nativesteelwelding@gmail.com
Manufacturing

Natures Cure
Joel Halloran
Cedar Springs, MI 49319
(616) 970-8016
sales@naturescurekratom.com
www.naturescurestore.com
Personal Care Services

NMK Consulting
Charlee Brissette
Dafer, MI 49724
(906) 630-3082
cnbrissette@gmail.com
Consulting

Nontrivial Solutions
James Bearden
Oklahoma City, OK 73137
(405) 698- 3702
james@nontrivial.net
<http://www.nontrivial.net/InformationTechnology>

Northern Hospitality
John McClellan
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
(906) 635-4800
jmccllean@saulttribe.net
<https://www.saulttribe.com/enterprises/northern-hospitalityRetail>

See "Directory," page 21

From "Directory," page 20

Northern Wings David Goudreau Newberry, MI 49868-8170 (906) 477-6176 EXT 101 dave@northernwings.com https://northernwings.com/ Aerospace & Defense	Mike Pages Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 259-0809 mpages73@gmail.com https://www.facebook.com/ProLine-Auto-408518942632829/ Transportation	Saulteur Scott Lavictor Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (313) 244-9793 scott@saulteur.com https://www.saulteur.com/ Consulting	(906) 630-6939 jennlroy209@gmail.com https://www.superiorcustomblinds.com/ Retail	Food & Beverage The Pink Cactus Laura Cook Ithaca, MI 48847 (989) 264-2050 lannecook@gmail.com Retail
Ogitchidaa Ann Dailey Holt, MI 48842 (906) 322-2716 ann@companyk.us Security	Red Sky Woman Designs Helen Wilkins Kincheloe, MI 49788 (906) 322-9597 hwilkins5@gmail.com https://www.facebook.com/Red-Sky-Woman-Designs-179306729328391/ Arts/Culture	Sault Printing Ron Maleport Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 635-3369 ron@saultprinting.com http://saultprinting.com Marketing/Advertising	Superior Satellite Solutions Gary Talarico Germfask, MI 49836 (906) 450-7675 chieffishfinder1@att.net Telecommunications	Thermal Kernels Cathy Baker McMillian, MI 49853 (231) 675 1060 lovethermalkernels@gmail.com https://www.facebook.com/cornybusiness Personal Care Services
Ojibwe Hazardous Abatement Rob Arndt Escanaba, MI 49829 (906) 786-3001 robarndt95@gmail.com https://www.ojibwehazardous.com/ Environmental	Regal Home Care Breana McCoy Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (620) 308-0277 regalhomecare@outlook.com https://regal-homecare-906-live.com/ Healthcare	Sault Tribe Incorporated Joel Schultz Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 203-5343 joel.schultz@saulttribeinc.com https://www.saulttribeinc.com/ Public Sector	Superior Web Gina Harmon Newberry, MI 49868 (906) 293-3625 ginavgc@gmail.com https://www.superiorweb.net/ Media/Entertainment	TickledPinkAntiques Carole Prisk Negaunee, MI 49866 (906) 475-4810 caroleprisk@yahoo.com https://www.facebook.com/Tickled-Pink-Antiques-183263778383419/ Retail
Pederson Lawn & Landscape Heather Pederson Garden, MI 49835 (906) 644-2150 dr.pederson@hotmail.com Environmental	REO Consulting, LLC Barbara Pemble, MS, SHRM-CP Denver, CO 80206 (303) 808-1146 bpemble@reoconsulting.org https://www.reoconsulting.org/ Consulting	Sawyer Village Joy Page Gwinn, MI 49841 (906) 346-3919 sawyervillage@saulttribe.net https://sawyervillage.com/ Real Estate	Surface Tech Applicators Nathan Cremeans Rudyard, MI 49780 (906) 203-9397 nscremeans@gmail.com https://www.surface-tech-applicators.com/ Construction	Timberdoodle Janelle Gross Dudeck DeTour, MI 49725 (906) 297-1011 timberdoodle.mercantile@gmail.com https://www.facebook.com/shoptimberdoodle Retail
Pemble Concrete Coatings Charles Pemble Marquette, MI 49855 (906) 361-6562 pemconco@gmail.com http://pemconco.com/ Construction	Revenue Return Specialists Craig King Guntersville, AL 35976 (706) 218-2250 craig@revenuereturnspecialists.com RevenueReturnSpecialists.com Business Services	Say It With Swag Cassandra Pasque Macomb, MI 48044 (248) 953-1933 sayitwithswagllc@gmail.com http://sayitwithswag.net/ Retail	Synchronized Networking Solutions Robert (Bob) Gonczy Penrose, CO 81240 (719) 371-2315 rgonczy@syncns.com http://www.syncns.com/ InformationTechnology	Tinger Investments, LLC Alex Ermatinger Kalamazoo, MI 49009 (269) 303-1339 tingerguideservice@gmail.com https://www.tingerguideservice.com Recreation
Peninsula Shores Gallery Eirnella O Neil Gould City, MI 49838 (906) 477-6303 eirnella.oneil@gmail.com Arts/Culture	Rock Road Masonry & Construction Brandon Deno Escanaba, MI 49829 (906) 789-7892 scs@chartermi.net Construction	Seniors Helping Seniors Chad Lawson Jacksonville, FL 32258 (904) 716-5680 clawson5454@yahoo.com https://seniorshelpingseniors.com/ Healthcare	T & K King Fisheries Theron King Moran, MI 49760 (906) 643-1068 kingsfishmarket@gmail.com https://www.facebook.com/kingsfishmarketandrestaurant/ Farming/Fishing	Tipping Point Solutions Rick Schmidt Centennial, CO 80112 (303) 353-0440 EXT 301 info@tp-solutions.com https://www.tippingpointcorp.net/ Media/Entertainment
Pennzoil Tracy Smart Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 635-3018 admin@pennzoilsaultstемarie.com https://www.facebook.com/Pennzoilssm/ Transportation	Ron's Birchbark Studio Ron Paquin St. Ignace, MI 49781 (231) 420-3518 mollyronpaquin@gmail.com Arts/Culture	Seriously SEO Dustin Denkins Manistique, MI 49854 (906) 644-2548 dustin@denkins.net Business Services	Tadpole Press Amber Byers Lafayette, CO 80026 (303) 668-8812 amber@tadpolepress.com www.tadpolepress.com Communications	Total Outlook Hair Care and Tanning Connie Payment Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 632-6936 totaloutlooksalon@gmail.com https://totaloutlookhairandtanning.com/ Personal Care Services
Peterson Building & Contracting Kenneth Peterson Manistique, MI 49854 (989) 329-2139 herbstsg@gmail.com Construction	Roy Electric Jeff Roy Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 632-8878 royelectric@lighthouse.net http://www.royelectriccompany.com/home Utilities	Snowbelt Brewing Company Angielena Muellenberg Gaylord, MI 49735 (989) 448-7077 drinklocal@snowbeltbrewery.com https://www.snowbelt.beer/ Food & Beverage	The Bostique Cindy King Manistique, MI 49854 (906) 286-4374 bostiquemstq@gmail.com https://www.shopbostique.com/ Retail	
Pink Giraffe Beauty Products Maddi Lynch Escanaba, MI 49837 (906) 280-6994 pinkgiraffebeautyproducts@gmail.com pinkgiraffeproducts.com Retail	Ruddles Native Painting Carol Ruddle Mackinac Island, MI 49781 (906) 430-1728 nativepaintingmack@gmail.com Arts/Culture	Soo Welding Charles Fabry Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 632-8241 soowelding@outlook.com Manufacturing	The Brickyard Bar and Grill Tate Hakola Rudyard, MI 49780 (906) 442-1099 hakolaj@michigan.gov https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Bar/The-Brickyard-Bar-Grill-1017733485083023/ Food & Beverage	Tribal Voices Cressandra Thibideaux Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (310) 880-3907 cressandra@mac.com Media/Entertainment
Premier Learning Colleen Grace Ford Swartz Creek, MI 48473 (810) 732-6493 cgkford@comcast.net Education	Sabatine Appraisals Stephanie Sabatine Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 322-2960 stephsabatine@gmail.com Real Estate	Sore Arm's Fishing Charters Aaron Hendrickson Gwinn, MI 49841 (906) 360-6035 sorearmscharters@gmail.com https://www.sorearmscharters.com/ Recreation	The Buckley General Store Carl Brasseur Buckley, MI 49620 (231) 342-4245 carlbrasseur@gmail.com Retail	TriMedia Environmental and Engineering Services Robert Lehto Marquette, MI 49855 (906) 228-5125 hello@trimediaee.com https://trimediaee.com/ Environmental
Prescription Oxygen Ron Gordon Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 632 3772 ron@prescriptionoxygen.com https://www.facebook.com/PrescriptionOxygen/ Healthcare	Sacred Tattoo Studio Danielle Pemble Marquette, MI 49855 (906) 273-0800 daniellepemble@icloud.com www.sacredtattoostudio.com Personal Care Services	St. Ignace in Bloom Alex Belonga St. Ignace, MI 49781 (616) 644-4214 greenhouse@stignaceinbloom.com stignaceinbloom.com Retail	The Ice Cream Shoppe Jill Mcleod Cedarville, MI 49719 (906) 484-5525 jmcleod@eupschools.org https://www.facebook.com/The-Ice-Cream-Shoppe-175540842574683/ Food & Beverage	TX Pro Tracy Prout Hutto, TX 78634 (512) 630-8848 tracy@txprollc.com https://www.facebook.com/txprollc Retail
Project Pomona Meghan Roberts Driftwood, TX 78619 (281) 248-7406 meghan2roberts@gmail.com https://projectpomona.com/ Retail	Salon C Cathy McClellan Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 635-3964 cathyann906@gmail.com http://www.saloncssm.com/ Personal Care Services	Sugar Island Shores David Menard Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 440-7644 sugarislandshores@yahoo.com Food & Beverage	The Palace Saloon Doreen Goetz Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 632-7721 palacesaloon1903@gmail.com https://www.thepalacemexicanrestaurant.com/ Food & Beverage	U.P. Auto Group Gerald Jackson Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 630-5361 gjackson@upautosales.com https://www.upautosales.com/ Transportation
Proline Auto		Superior Custom Blinds Jennnifer Hatfield Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783	U.P. Carpet Mart	

Chairman provides tribal updates to members



AUSTIN LOWES
TRIBAL CHAIRMAN

Aaniin,

First off, I would like to thank the membership for placing their trust in me during the special advisory election to fill the vacated chairperson position. The Sault Tribe is the largest tribe east of the Mississippi River. Being the chairman comes with enormous responsibilities, which I don't take lightly. I pledge to work my hardest every day to improve our tribe and the lives of our members. Being chairman is one of the greatest honors of my life, and I will do my best to make my tribe proud.

I will now provide tribal updates. The tribe recently closed on purchasing the Plaza Motor Motel. This will provide transitional and emergency housing to

our membership. When operational, it will be the only tribally owned homeless shelter in the state of Michigan. This service is necessary because Native Americans are impacted by homelessness at higher rates than any other race or ethnicity.

Prior to this purchase, the tribe was spending roughly \$100,000 per year providing members with 2-week vouchers to stay in local motels when they became homeless. After that period was up, this service discontinued. Now that we own our own shelter, we won't have to pay other motels. We'll be able to house our members in a place that provides them with safety and dignity while they get back on their feet.

I would also like to thank Jim Anderson for selling us this property. This motel was in Jim's family for decades, and with his family's hard work, it remained the nicest place to stay in Sault Ste. Marie. This motel has 21 rooms and includes a 3-bedroom, 2-bath home, which is on site, along with a plow truck. The home will house shelter staff, who will work with the residents to address the underlying reasons for their homelessness. This purchase was a tremendous value for the tribe, due to the high cost of construction. There was no way the tribe could build enough



Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes (center) closes the deal on the purchase of 560 acres on Sugar Island, increasing the tribe's land base by 15 percent. Also pictured are (L-R) Unit I Directors Betty Freiheit and Isaac McKechnie.

homes to house this amount of people with the price we paid for this motel — not even close.

I am also proud to announce that the tribe recently closed on a

560-acre parcel of land on Sugar Island, which includes 7,000 feet of shoreline along the St. Mary's River. Although we have roughly 50,000 members, we are a land-

poor tribe with roughly 3,500 acres. It is therefore a goal for the New Board to increase the tribe's land base, which this purchase did by 15 percent. I will advocate for this land, along with future purchases, to be available for the membership to hunt, fish, and gather on.

In addition to these purchases, I have worked hard at representing our tribe at the state and national level. I recently attended the White House Tribal Nations Summit. This was a gathering between the Biden Administration and all federally recognized tribes in the country. It was an opportunity for tribes to express their needs and strengthen their government-to-government relations with the federal government. I also attended the Tribal-State Summit with Governor Whitmer. During this summit, we discussed Line 5, ICWA, the Consent Decree, and other pressing issues facing our tribal community.

Moving forward, I will continue to represent our tribe in a positive way. I am proud to be part of a board that prioritizes increasing our land-base and providing services to our most vulnerable, such as our homeless population.

Miigwech for the opportunity!
Austin Lowes

Board should focus solely on big picture items



TYLER LAPLAUNT
DIRECTOR, UNIT V

It's been another busy month both within the tribe and Unit 5. I want to start out by congratulating our new Tribal Chairman Elect, Austin Lowes. The people of the Sault Tribe have voted and their voices have been overwhelmingly heard. Chairman Elect Lowes will fill the remainder of the term of the chair vacancy and we will move forward together in a good direction. Austin has a kind and caring heart and is willing to work with all of us to make the tough decisions to move this tribe forward in a good way. Congratulations to all of the chair candidates who ran in this election. Putting yourself out there isn't easy, especially under the circumstances we were in.

While we were all hoping for things to settle down, there is one last special election coming up. With Austin winning the chair election, his Unit 1 seat will be vacated. As I mentioned before, the voters have the right to choose their representatives and the board will not seat anyone

in that position without a vote. Therefore, another special election will occur for the remainder of Austin's Unit 1. Whoever wins the most votes in Unit 1 will fill that seat until July 2024. Once the Unit 1 Special Election is complete, the dust should finally begin to settle and we will get a nice reprieve until the 2024 elections. Good luck to all of the future candidates in the upcoming Unit 1 Special Election. When democracy works, everyone wins.

With the chair election behind us, we can put another phase of this crazy year behind us as well. As you all are aware, DJ Hoffman was suing the tribe based on the invalidation of his appointment. I am happy to announce that both the Tribal Court and our Appellate Court have thrown out the case. This is all I will say about this issue as I'm hoping to finally end this dark chapter and help us move forward with our new chair, board, and whoever wins the upcoming Unit 1 Special Election.

This was a relatively quiet month for board policy and resolutions. Most of the work we have been doing in the boardroom has been standard business item approvals, budget mods, and grant application approvals. I still think we are too heavy handed in the day-to-day business of the tribe and we as a board need to come to an agreement to back off a little bit and allow our well-educated and experienced professionals to have more autonomy in their work. Our board should focus solely on big picture items, acquisitions, policy, and governmental services. We will eventually get there, but for myself and I'm sure for our staff, it can't

come soon enough.

One of the more contentious items we dealt with this past month was Indian Energy. The Sault Tribe made an investment of \$2.5 million in Indian Energy over a decade ago and are 15 percent owners in the company. In that time, we haven't seen any return on investment. Recently, Indian Energy was awarded a very large grant from the state of California, where they are located, to do very large-scale solar projects. Unfortunately, the grant they were awarded could only begin reimbursing costs incurred and they needed to take out a loan in order to begin the project with the up-front supply costs.

As a board, we moved on this as quickly as we could. The majority shareholder needed to take out a loan and use his house and his shares as collateral and needed the tribe to sign off on it because of our ownership interest in the company. We had both our general counsel and our CFO thoroughly review all Indian Energy documents and loan paperwork to ensure that the Sault Tribe would not be financially liable in case of any default. Just as with ARPA projects, we need to do our due diligence to protect our tribe, and that is something that we will continue to do with all major financial decisions.

It was determined that we could move forward without any harm to the tribe, so we voted to sign off on the documents and allow them to move ahead with the loan, and thus, the project. We have nothing to lose and everything to gain in this scenario with the potential of finally seeing some of our original investment come back to us in a new revenue

stream. While we are optimistic, we are also very cautious. We have requested and Indian Energy has accepted to have increased communication with them. This will hold them accountable to our investment and will give our board a report of activities on a more regular basis. Indian Energy is a Sault Tribe-owned business. Let's hope and pray for their success both for them as tribal citizens and to benefit our tribe as a whole.

Another contentious item we have been dealing with are the ARPA construction projects. I'm happy to announce that ARPA construction project holds are beginning to be released with a resolution that we passed on Dec. 5. Last month, I reported that we put a brief hold on projects to ensure that we have limited liability and that everything was being done legally in accordance with federal and tribal law. Our Legal team and CFO worked together to get everything back into compliance. We are lucky this was caught early and we can now continue to move forward with each of these projects. I know and understand that this was frustrating and seemed like a hassle but we have a duty as a Board to protect our tribe and our assets and that is exactly what we are doing with every decision we make.

As treasurer, I also assisted the tribe in the negotiation and purchase of a 560-acre parcel of land on Sugar Island. This deal is now complete and Chairman Elect Lowes will be signing the closing documents on Dec. 12 in the Sault. This parcel of land will be used sustainably to hunt, fish, gather, and for traditional and cultural teachings and our way

of life. This is a big step forward and I hope to see many other land purchases by our tribe in the future.

Moving into health updates. I'm pleased to announce that we recently passed a tribal 501c3 policy that was presented to us by the Health Division in conjunction with our general counsel. This will allow our tribe, under our sovereignty as a nation, to establish our own 501c3 organizations. The Health Division needed to do this in order to realize the recovery clinic that it is moving forward with. This will give Health the ability to branch off and apply for additional grants and foundation money to expand the project and services. I'm very excited to see this move forward and to see what will come of it. As a non-profit director who has helped establish and manage non-profits, I am looking forward to working with Health to help in any way I can to see this become successful.

Health Director Leo Chugunov has continued to update us at every board workshop on his progress within the Health Division. Several key interviews have taken place in the last month and if we can get even one of these positions hired, it's a step in the right direction. Additionally, telemedicine is set to begin in remote clinics, starting with Marquette, in the month of December. As promised, I am working with the Health Division to help expand health care for our tribal citizens. Marquette will begin piloting the telemedicine equipment at the clinic site and expansions will happen in the coming months into the rest of the Rural Health

See LaPlaut Report," page 23

Tribal members should attend board meetings



**DARCY MORROW,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV**

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

I had the pleasure of attending the Manistique Elders Christmas dinner this past week at the Manistique Tribal Center. There was a great turnout, it was nice to see all the elders enjoying the comradery of getting back together in a group setting since the start of COVID. The Escanaba Elders Christmas dinner will be held Dec. 14 at the Island Resort Casino at 5 p.m. I am expecting a great turnout there too!

The below resolution has been put on the meeting agenda two times by Director's Sorenson, McKerchie and me.

**RESOLUTION NO: _____
NULLIFICATION OF
AGREEMENT WITH TRIBAL
MEMBER**

WHEREAS, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors ("Board of Directors") previously entered into an agreement with a Tribal member which included strict terms regarding non-dispar-

agement between the parties ("Agreement"); and

WHEREAS, previous action has been taken by the Board of Directors to notify the Tribal member that certain actions of the Tribal member are in violation and conflict with the terms of the Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has determined that the terms of the Agreement continue to not be adhered to by the Tribal member.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby finds and determines that the terms of the Agreement between the Board of Directors and a Tribal member, attached hereto, have been violated by the Tribal member party to the Agreement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors hereby deems the Agreement null and void due to the continuous violations of the Tribal member party to the Agreement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors hereby demands this tribal member refund all monetary payments issued pursuant to the terms of the Separation Agreement due to the continued violations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes and approves the Notice of Violation, also attached hereto, and directs the Notice of Violation to be issued to the Tribal member party to the Agreement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the tribes legal department is authorized to take any and all necessary action to recover the monetary payments issued.

NOW BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes and approves the Tribal Vice-Chair-

man, or designee, to execute any and all documents as may be necessary and appropriate to carry out the terms, conditions, and intent of this Resolution.

Unfortunately, this resolution was tabled at each meeting by Freiheit, McRorie, Lee, Hampton, McKechnie, LaPlaunt and Borowicz. They think this is just going to go away and members won't know about it!

I encourage each of you Sault Tribe members to start attending board meetings either in person or via Zoom. Please go to the Sault Tribe's website saulttribe.com to sign up for the Zoom link and then you will receive the invite to board meetings.

I would like to take the time to thank the Election Committee and their attorney and commend them for following the election codes, our Constitution and ensuring the candidates did also! When a resolution was on the agenda to hire a special prosecutor, it got tabled every time by Freiheit, McRorie, Lee, Hampton, McKechnie, LaPlante and Borowicz.

Who holds the current board members or candidates with election violations accountable?

The committee has the authority to uphold the codes and Constitution. They have the authority to fine candidates and if it falls under criminal prosecution, they submit the information to the prosecutor. But each time a special prosecutor was to be hired by resolution those certain board members voted to table it? Why? Are they protecting themselves and each other?

Last week the Election Committee held three open public hearings at the Sault Tribe Courthouse in Sault Ste. Marie. Two current board members, Kimberly Hampton and Isaac McKechnie, did not give the Election Com-

mittee, our codes, or our Constitution the respect to even show up for their hearings. I commend the tribal member who showed up and participated in their hearing with the Election Committee.

Why would one not show up on their own behalf when the Election Committee must have sent them notice of the hearings with the date and time, since one individual showed up for their hearing? Because now that they are seated on the board, they think they're untouchable because they control the table!

The Election Committee members have been ridiculed for upholding our election codes, our Constitution and our laws by some board members and their likeminded supporters. Betty Freiheit complained she received a fine from the Election Committee at the last meeting. She then said everyone who paid their fine this year should get their money back and wipe away the fines.

That is on the record at the Dec. 5, board meeting, she wants people who broke our election codes, our Constitution and our laws including her to wipe away their fines and fees!

Now do you see why they keep tabling the special prosecutor, the resolution to investigate four board members based on a police report filed by an employee who is also an Election Committee member, renewing the Election Committee attorney's contract and the latest one, Nullification of Agreement with a Tribal Member.

The Elder Outreach worker position was posted at \$18,977 per hour for the Manistique and Munising areas on the tribes' website Nov. 16 open until filled. On Nov. 21 Human Resources took down the job posting from

the website. When members called asking why it was removed because they applied for the position, Human Resources said they could not comment and referred them to another worker. How was a position filled when the members who applied were not called for an interview? I received many calls from applicants because the person who quit the week before was placed back in the position. That is not following our hiring policies! How did this happen?

Let's fast forward — the position gets posted again Dec. 8 through Dec. 13. Now it has only been posted for six days, and everything is hush hush because rumor has it, they are putting the same person back into that job. The tribe's HR policy when someone quits the first time, they have to wait 30 days to reapply to the tribe for a job. Is this the transparency the new board promised or is this the buddy system!

The Tribal-State Summit was held Dec. 6 with the Sault Tribe as the host at our Kewadin Sault Casino. We had two separate sessions with the Governor Whitmer. I was able to comment on our treaty fishing, invasive species, and Line 5. Each division also put together white papers for the Governor on more issues the tribe would like to bring to her attention.

I would also like to thank all the staff that were involved from beginning until the end of the summit — outstanding job hosting the event everything was excellent!

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to call me.

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

Whitmer appoints Judge Maldonado at Summit

From "Summit," page 1

employees who work on matters that have direct implications for tribes, and also required each department and agency to adopt and implement a tribal consultation policy.

Governor Whitmer has shown a deep commitment to ensuring members of Michigan's federally recognized tribes have a seat at the table in state government. She has appointed 44 Native Americans to judgeships, councils, boards, and commissions. One of those appointees, Bryan Newland, was sworn in as Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs last year, where he serves Native communities nationwide alongside Secretary Deb Haaland.

**Judge Maldonado
Appointment**

Governor Whitmer announced her appointment of Judge Allie Greenleaf Maldonado to the Michigan Court of Appeals, District 4. Maldonado currently serves as the Chief Judge of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Trial Court. Maldonado has also served as a pro tem judge for the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Prior to her appointment as Chief Judge, she served as assistant general counsel for the LTBB tribe from 2002-2012. Following her



Photo by Jennifer Dale-Burton

At the Dec. 5 Tribal-State Summit in Sault Ste. Marie, Governor Whitmer (seated) announced her appointment of Judge Allie Greenleaf Maldonado (left of governor) to the Michigan Court of Appeals, District 4, surrounded by tribal leaders in the state of Michigan. Maldonado is a citizen of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Ottawa Indians.

graduation from law school, Maldonado was selected as only the 15th tribal citizen to enter the prestigious honors program at the United States Department of Justice (DOJ). There she became a litigator in the Indian Resources Section of the Environment and Natural Resources Division. She later worked as a staff attorney

for Monteau & Peebles, LLP.

Maldonado earned her Juris Doctor degree from the University of Michigan Law School, and she holds a Bachelor of Science in Business from the City University of New York. Maldonado is a nationally recognized expert on the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and

the Michigan Indian Family Preservation Act (MIFPA). She is active in the legal community outside the court room and is a member of the Black Women Lawyer's Association of Michigan, Anishinaabek Caucus of Michigan, Women Lawyer's Association of Michigan, Michigan Committee on Juvenile

Justice, Michigan Justice for All Commission, and the treasurer for the National Association of Drug Court Professionals. Allie lives in Petoskey with her husband, Jay. She is a citizen of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians and a member of the Turtle Clan.

"I am humbled and honored to be trusted by Governor Whitmer for this appointment to the Michigan Court of Appeals," Maldonado said. "I look forward to taking all of my professional experience and diligently applying it to the work ahead of me. This is a moment of importance not just for me, but for all of Indian Country as the Governor's wisdom in this appointment sends a message about the critical importance of the work of tribal courts. I am grateful to the Governor and her team, and I look forward to giving all of Michigan my best."

This appointment was made to fill a partial term following the retirement of Judge Amy Ronayne Krause effective Dec. 13. Maldonado's term will commence on Jan. 9, 2023, and expire Jan. 1, 2025. If Judge Maldonado wishes to serve the remainder of Judge Krause's term, expiring Jan. 1, 2027, she would be required to run for reelection in November 2024.

Judicial appointments are not subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

Unit I Director Kim Hampton gives an update



**KIMBERLY HAMPTON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV**

Aniin kina waya (hello everybody). I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays, from myself and my family, to you and your family.

Sault Tribe Chairman Special Advisory Election

On Dec. 7, 2022, Sault Tribe had a historic event occur. This was the night of the Special Advisory Election for Chairman, to which Austin Lowes received the most votes with 3,719 votes, while Bridgett Sorenson had 1,446 votes and DJ Hoffman received 1,374 votes. Austin

Lowes, upon taking Oath of Office, will be the youngest Sault Tribe chairman. Miigwech to Austin for stepping up and being willing to lead Sault Tribe forward into the future of positive progress and change.

Tribal-State Summit

On Dec. 6, 2022, the Sault Tribe Board of Directors, leaders from the 12 federally recognized tribes in the state of Michigan, as well as Governor Gretchen Witmer, attended the Tribal-State Summit. The Sault Tribe Board of Directors was able to sit down with Governor Whitmer to present the main issues Sault Tribe experiences, and discussed how the state of Michigan can assist Sault Tribe in rectifying issues throughout Indian Country. Chi Miigwech to all Sault Tribe staff for dedicating much of your time in order to make this year's Tribal-State Summit a very successful one. I appreciate you all.

Treaty Negotiations

Treaty negotiations are in litigation. Sault Tribe is continuing to fight for the treaty rights of our people. This process has endured years already and will continue to be lengthy. I kindly

ask you all to be patient with leadership during this time, we will provide updates as allowable.

Powwow Meetings

Unit 4 will have a 2023 Powwow on Saturday, June 10, 2022, with a Ceremony Opening the evening of Friday, June 9, 2022.

Meetings scheduled for the Powwow Committee are located at the Manistique Tribal Health Center, 5698W US Highway 2, Manistique, Mich., on the following dates:

Jan. 16, 2023, at 6 p.m. EST

Feb. 20, 2023, at 6 p.m. EST

Unit 4 Elder Holiday Parties

The Manistique Elder Holiday Party was held Dec. 8, 2022, 5 p.m. at the Manistique Tribal Center. The holiday party was very nice, relaxing and festive. Miigwech to all who helped with the party.

At the writing this unit report, the Escanaba Elder Holiday Party had not occurred yet as it is scheduled for Dec. 14, 2022.

Unit 4 Children's Christmas Parties

The Manistique Children's

Christmas Party is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 17, 2022, from 12 to 3 p.m. EST. the location is Manistique Tribal Health Center, 5698W US Highway 2, Manistique, Mich. Children must have been pre-registered by Dec. 2.

The Escanaba Children's Christmas Party will be a Drive-Through this year and is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 18, 2022 from 12 to 3 p.m. EST. The location is Escanaba YEA building, 1226 Wigob, Escanaba, Mich., located on the Escanaba Tribal Housing site. Children must have been pre-registered by Dec. 2.

I would like to extend a huge thank you, Chi Miigwech, to all individuals who have helped in this process so far, including shopping for Christmas gifts, organizing, and planning.

Looking Forward

At the time I am writing this unit report, I am preparing for the Manistique and Escanaba Children's Christmas parties that will be occurring this week. I will also be attending the Escanaba Elder Holiday Party this week. I am very thankful for all those individuals who

have assisted me in planning, organizing, and preparing for the Children's Christmas parties and the planned 2023 Powwow.

I would like to share that on Nov. 30, 2022, I was appointed as vice-chair for the newly created Tribal Homeland Security Advisory Council, where I will serve alongside other tribal leaders from Arizona, Texas, New York, Oklahoma, North Dakota, California, Louisiana, Alaska, and Minnesota. I am the only member on the Tribal Homeland Security Advisory Council from the state of Michigan, which I take very seriously and am honored to be able to provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to work hand in hand to address key areas of the homeland security mission relating to Indian Country.

Miigwech for allowing me to represent and advocate for our members. I am always available for questions, comments, and ideas for growth. My number is (906) 440-8138, email is khampton@saulttribe.net.

Kimberly Hampton,
Unit 4 Representative

Lowes elected by an overwhelming majority



**BETTY FREIHEIT,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

Hello Tribal Members,
The members have spoken. In a loud and clear voice, they elected Austin Lowes by an overwhelming majority to be our next chairperson. Thank you, Austin, for stepping up to run, and thank you members for recognizing he will be an outstanding chair. Austin won with 57 percent of the vote and beat his nearest competitors by more than twice as many votes as them combined.

For the most part, we do have

a great board. And now with Austin as our official chair, I predict even more good things. The margin of votes he received demonstrates that members believe we are on the right path. We have already accomplishment much since the June elections.

Even though we are moving forward we cannot sweep some things under the teepee and pretend they never happened. That is not in the best interest of the tribe. Egregious acts should never be dismissed and those who perpetrate such acts may repeat them again if they are left unchallenged.

I am referring to the events of the June 20 board workshop that was voted to be made public to the members. It has been broadly circulated on the Internet and is located on the tribal website, under the Board of Directors tab. It appears under the video link on the far-left sidebar.

I believe that in this June 20 workshop, several members of the board of directors may have violated our tribal Constitution, Election Ordinance, our tribal Criminal Code and our tribal

Open Meetings Act. I believe that we need a thorough investigation to determine what Constitution and code violation occurred, and then to act accordingly to deal with the violators.

Rogue board members at that workshop were actually discussing ways to overturn our election! To stop ballots from being counted, to not even pick up the ballots from the post office, and to not seat the winners of the election for up to six months. This sedition should not go unaddressed.

This is frightening to me, and should be to members as well. Our board has unlimited and unchecked power. While we have a good board now, things change. Our government should withstand the ebb and flow of who is elected.

Presently, without a separation of power, the only thing that prevents a ruthless board from overthrowing our democratic elections are the individual ethics of a board majority.

We need to ensure that our board members do have the ethics and integrity to protect our government. And, if they

do not, we need to expose that. We cannot allow the structure of our government to be eroded by those who would keep their power at all cost.

The Court of Appeals upheld the lower court dismissal of DJ Hoffman's suit against the tribal board for voiding his appointment as chairman.

He has now exhausted the Tribal Court avenues. Again, DJ Hoffman knew before he even filed in court that the tribal court lacked the ability to grant his request. He knew all along that he lacked standing.

He has served 12 years on the board and knew that the board delegated powers to the courts and had never given the courts the authority to rule against decisions of the tribal board. The courts would be exceeding their constitutional authority to even try. So, what were his suits all about? I cannot answer that.

The Court of Appeals also dismissed a \$1,500 fine they imposed on former Chairperson Aaron Payment. The Court ruled that the Election Committee was "arbitrary and capricious" and

abused their authority by holding so-called hearings while not even notifying Payment, violating his right to due process and failing to allow him to offer up a defense or even an explanation. The complaint was filed by Hoffman, who, I believe, filed most if not all of the complaints this election cycle.

With judicial precedence set in overturning the \$1,500 fine against Payment, all fines similarly issued (approximately \$8,000) by the committee will need to be vacated. Additionally, the expense of time, effort and attorney's fees should be reimbursed by the complainant of the vast majority if not all frivolous election complaints.

Please take care of yourself and your family, help your neighbors anytime you can. Please take care of our elders and check on them often.

Also, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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

LaPlaut continued —

From "LaPlaut Report," pg. 22 clinics. While this may not be optimal, it is the way of the post-pandemic world and I am thrilled to see this become operational across our tribe and beyond in the coming months and years. This is and will be a huge improvement for all tribal citizens. More to come.

As some of you may have heard or deduced, the Sault Tribe is buying the University BP gas station on Third Street in Marquette. The closing date is set for Jan. 19, 2023. We want this transition to go as smoothly as possi-

ble so that the business can operate as is on day 1. This is a solid purchase for our tribe as it has a very strong revenue stream, so it will increase our economic development. We will also be moving the tribal gas tax credit to this location as soon as possible upon purchase. I will make sure that adequate notification goes out when this goes live. This creates a more sustainable operation for us as a Tribe and a solid footprint in the Marquette Area. I want to thank Joel Schultz for assisting in the negotiation and purchase of this property.

We had a great turnout for the

First Nations Food Taster that was held at NMU on Nov. 28. Folks came all the way from Manistique to join in on a night of great food, great conversation and great music. It was so wonderful to see people get together and take part in sharing a meal and stories. As Unit 5 director, I will continue to partner with NMU Native American Student Association in any activity they do to both help fund traditional and cultural activities and create a space for Sault Tribe members to join in and feel welcome. The students do great work and I appreciate everyone who helped and took part of this event. Together, we can create the com-

munity that we want to see.

The Teal Lake Drum, led by TJ Derwin, also began practice in Marquette on Dec. 8. They will be practicing at the Citizens Forum in Lakeview Arena on the second and fourth Thursday of every month from 5 to 8 p.m. The first practice was amazing! We had children and adults sit on the drum for the very first time. Plenty of teachings and storytelling. People in the back of the room doing crafts, beading, leatherwork, and just talking and having a good time. This is what this tribe needs more of across the region. A sense of community. I'm so excited to see where

this goes and I'd like to thank TJ for reaching out and making this possible. Please, join us if you can. Again, this is a Unit 5 sponsored event, but everyone is welcome and the teachings belong to all of us.

If anyone in Unit 5 would like any other traditional or cultural events sponsored, please reach out and let me know. This will become more of a focus as we move forward in a good direction.

Chi Miigwetch,
Tyler Migizii Migwan
LaPlaut
tlaplaut@saulttribe.net
(906) 440-8294

Lowes elected chair: Our membership has spoken



ROBERT MCRORIE
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Aaniin, fellow members of our Sault Tribe Nation. I hope my report finds you well, with yourself and family in good health and spirit.

I would like to start out by congratulating our newly ELECTED Sault Tribe Chairman, Austin Lowes. I am looking forward to working with him and am excited to see the positive accomplishments we will achieve as an Indigenous nation under his leadership. When elected, I promised our tribe that I would take whatever measures were necessary, within my authority, to give our membership its right to vote on the next chairperson. The results of this election should serve as a reminder to all future leaders that our membership does not appreciate political appointments. My vote on the board will always support the membership's right to elect our leaders. That responsibility should rest with the members and not elected officials. Miigwech to all of our amazing members who refused to be silenced.

Although the last couple of months were a little rough for me, because I was out with COVID for a couple of weeks and have not fully recovered yet, I was still able to attend every meeting and connect with members using technology. I was even able to video chat with some of our elders, which was really nice to see and hear from them and to know they're also utilizing new forms of technology to communicate. I encourage all members to reach out to me with any questions, concerns, or even new ideas to help move our nation forward. As a leader, I believe

keeping open lines of communication with our members is essential to true representation of the will of our members. I take members input and feedback into great consideration when making decisions.

On Dec. 6, the Sault Tribe hosted the 2022 Tribal-State Summit. Governor Gretchen Whitmer and leaders from each of the tribes of Michigan were in attendance to discuss issues of concern and to work towards improving government-to-government relations. I have been asked by many members if I had attended the event, because I did not appear in photos with the governor. Yes, I attended the event and actively participated in every meeting; however, I did excuse myself from the photos due to the current state of relations between our tribe and the state of Michigan. As most members are now aware, we are currently in litigation to defend our treaty rights. This is a challenge to our sovereignty and should not be taken lightly. I could not, in good conscience, stand in photos with representatives of a government that our sovereign nation is in a state of serious conflict with. I am hopeful that one day the state will recognize our sovereignty for what it is and uphold their end of the treaty obligations. At that time, I will be happy to take a photo with state representatives, but we are just not there yet. The debt that the state owes to our nation is far too great for me to pretend that we are on good terms, because we are not.

A major issue last month was to make a final decision on the allocation of \$25 million to build a recovery hospital. The board, including myself, voted to reduce the spending on this project by \$20 million. Within this resolution, an allocation of \$1 million was directed towards building a new Traditional Medicine facility, and \$5 million remains intact to complete a recovery campus. Although this reduction in spending for this project was tough for me, because I am very passionate about recovery, I have an obligation to our tribe, as a whole, and future generations to preserve and maintain what we already have before investing in new

projects of this magnitude.

The current state of our Health Division is currently far less than effective in providing timely medical care to our members. We have a serious issue with our existing facility being understaffed with limited providers and support staff. We cannot possibly expect to sufficiently staff a \$25 million facility with the current instability of the employment market. We must first address these issues to alleviate extensive waiting lists for medical treatment, within our hospital. In addition, there are multiple facilities within our tribe that are in dire need of maintenance and upkeep, including our casinos, Enrollment building, and Elders building, among others. Nearly every department within our tribe is in need of additional funding to be brought up to speed with technology, staff, and programming; therefore, I cannot, in good conscience, support an allocation of \$25 million for a single project. To do so would also be to neglect the needs of the rest of our tribe and people. Again, I fully support recovery and substance abuse treatment; however, at this time an investment of \$25 million is not fiscally responsible or feasible with the current economical state of our tribe.

Following this resolution, the board voted to allocate \$10 million towards casino upgrades. I believe this to be a critically important move to make because the infrastructure of the building is far overdue for repairs. At the beginning of last month, I met with the Casino CEO and GM to tour the facility. During this tour it was brought to my attention that there is consistent water damage in nearly every hotel room as well as many other areas within the casino. This must be addressed, and this resolution provides casino management with the funding to acquire the resources to resolve this issue. In the absence of this funding, the casino management would be forced to continue administering band-aid fixes without addressing the root cause, essentially resulting in long-term maintenance costs without fixing the root cause of the water damage. Although I believe in economic diversification, I also believe

it is absolutely imperative to protect the main source of our revenue, which is the casinos. Many believe the casino profits are not here to stay; however, I would argue that we simply need to adapt to the times, upgrade our infrastructure and technology, and market to new players. These principles are outlined within the CEO's plan and have been proven to be successful as we have recently seen our net revenues surpass the monthly numbers of 2019, which was our best year in the last decade.

I would like to give a huge shoutout to our Sault Tribe Youth Education & Activities Program (YEA) for hosting an amazing "Building Stronger Circles Youth Leadership Conference" the weekend of Nov. 5. It was a great honor to have been given the opportunity to address our future leaders.

This was a truly humbling experience for me and, to me, it was my most meaningful moment in office so far. It seems like just yesterday I was sitting in this conference as our Sault Tribe Youth Council president. So having the opportunity to present to our current youth councils, now as a sitting director, felt as if our program has once again come full circle.

My message to our future leaders was simple. Be proud, be bold, live life fearlessly, chase your dreams, and never forget who you are and where you came from. As I always do, I made sure to give the highest respect and gratitude for our ancestors and elders, because without them and their sacrifices, we would not have these opportunities today. I reminded them of the strength they possess in being Anishinaabek, what it means to be sovereign, and to stay true to themselves and their spirit by using our traditional forms of ceremony and prayer while honoring our sacred medicines. My hope is that our councils left the conference feeling empowered to change the world and walk proud knowing their ancestors are smiling down on them. They are the descendants of those who could not be broken or removed. The toughest of the tough.

Chi Miigwech to all of our

amazing YEA Program staff for putting on this leadership conference for our youth and for all of the hours and hard work you put in every day to give them greater opportunities. Coming from a former youth council member, whose life was forever changed by your compassion and dedication, you are all heroes in my eyes.

In the past month, I have had many members reach out to me for an update on the food sovereignty initiative. This is extremely important to me as I believe there is no greater expression of sovereignty than when a nation is able to feed its own people. As of now, the board of directors has approved of the formation of a Food Sovereignty Committee to serve as an advisory to the board moving forward with this project. This month I will be working with fellow board members to begin working on the framework for this committee as well as an application process to sit on the committee. My hope is to establish a committee comprised of individuals who are passionate about food sovereignty and also collectively possess the knowledge needed to make this project successful. The goal should be to work with our strategic planning department to develop a plan that empowers our members to engage with the program to put healthy, organic, homegrown meats and produce on our members' tables.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me at any time. I love hearing from our members. With the holiday season approaching quickly, I would like to encourage our members to take breaks from your busy lives to spend quality time with friends and family and enjoy one another's company. Although the holiday season brings much joy, please remember that this is also a season that brings out grieving and depression for some. Please reach out to anyone in need to remind them that they are not alone and they do have a support system to lean on. As a tribe, we must be able to lift one another up with love and compassion. Until next time, may Creator keep each of your families safe, healthy, and in good spirits.

Chi Miigwech.

Tuition waiver blood quantum, tribal tax agreement on radar



SHAWN BOROWICZ,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III
Tribal Members,
Hope all is well in your neck

of the woods and that you are all prepared for the Christmas holiday and the upcoming new year! We attended the Children's Drive Thru Christmas Party at the St. Ignace Casino and it was a huge success thanks to all the staff at the Shore's facility. Their hard work and dedication to this event under the guidance of Mr. Tim Ryerse gets bigger and bigger each year.

At this month's elder luncheon, some concerns were raised about our health care facility in St. Ignace and Dr. Leo was in attendance to answer some questions, offer some advice and to see what is needed to serve our members in a more

efficient and timely manner. More on this issue at a later time.

Two issues that have always been on my radar is the one quarter blood quantum for college and the tribal tax agreement, specifically the areas that are served by this agreement. I've never felt that we should be held back for a college education or a trade school by having to prove our heritage. It is my belief if you are a registered member of a federally recognized tribe your education should be taken care of through the Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver program, period!

The tribal tax issue needs to be revised to include the

entire state of Michigan so all Michigan members can utilize this benefit. How and why certain areas of the seven-county service area were chosen when this was implemented, I have no clue.

Getting back to the blood quantum issue, the entire board and a lot of staff attended the Tribal-State Summit with Governor Whitmer, which was held at our Kewadin casino in the Sault. All 12 Michigan tribes were invited and most were in attendance. We gave the governor a list of our concerns, as did the other tribes, when we met individually with her and her staff. When the governor gave

her speech one of her first topics was the blood quantum issue and I'm hoping she and her staff stick to this. This would be a huge benefit for tribal families with children attending college or who will be attending in the future.

Would like to give Mr. Mike McCoy and the entire staff at the Sault casino for preparing this huge event with the governor. It was a huge undertaking and it went off flawlessly with their meticulous planning.

If you should have any ideas or concerns, please reach out to me at sborowicz@saulttribe.net or (906) 379-8511.

Miigwech.

Sorenson writes on Election Committee issues



**BRIDGETT SORENSON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

For the past few months, I was only allowed to write 500 words since signing up to run for chair. It made it hard to get in everything I wanted to report on. During any election as a candidate, you are limited on your reports during the campaign timeline.

I would like to thank everyone who believed in me and voted for me for the chair position. To be honest, I didn't think the election was legal because I believe the board violated the Constitution since the board must appoint and that was what we did. To say there was never a notice of a vacancy is ludicrous. Then, when the members submitted referendums, the election should have stopped. I did not send any mailers or purchase signs for this campaign, I only purchased an ad in the tribal paper. It is kind of comical when you hear board members say that mailers and signs don't influence an election and those same ones purchase mailers and signs.

Things have almost hit rock bottom in the tribe. You have board members whining at meetings they were fined by the Election Committee. They

claim the committee is out of control this cycle. I will tell you that when I ran, especially in the beginning, I made sure to read the Constitution and Election Code carefully and ask questions if I didn't understand because I didn't want to violate. I believe that this new group were told that they could do whatever they wanted to and they couldn't be touched. I believe this was stated on social media.

Recently, some board members were sent letters to appear for an Election Committee hearing on Friday, Dec. 9, and Isaac and Kim Hampton failed to appear. Apparently, they feel that they do not have to abide but to me that is a clear abuse of office. Isaac was one of the four that questioned an Election Committee member while they were at work right after the election. Nothing was done about that as they continued to table the investigation into that.

At the board meeting last Monday, during Board Concerns, Betty talked about being fined by the Election Committee, Tyler said Austin was fined, too, and I believe others were, too. Some claim they are being targeted but all candidates were sent letters asking for more financial information. Betty was suggesting all their fines be paid back to them.

Every resolution that involves investigating current board, publicizing workshops, renewing the Election Committee attorney's contract, weaponizing legislation or an agreement are either voted down or tabled. How is this transparent? The old board tried to separate the Election Committee from the board and the new board made the election attorney report to our general counsel. It seems those that scream separation and transparency just want total control.

The current board is accusing DJ of meddling in the construction projects and having conflicts with certain contractors. This is all part of the investigation they voted to do on DJ, too. I am just confused because now Isaac is contacting vendors, contractors, and attending Executive Task Force meetings that no board member ever attended. Isaac has been a subcontractor of some of these companies and was supported by a local contractor. Classic, "You can't do it, but I can."

DJ was also accused of conflicts with contractors and staff with the JKL school. Isaac was the JKL school president and is now the JKL Fiduciary Committee chair. He is friends with the school superintendent, sold her property and helped build her house. He has also been a subcontractor in the school and now all fiduciary meetings happen at the school. They voted to terminate Tom Miller who coincidentally ran against Aaron in a previous election. Tom's brother had done a Facebook live feed calling out many issues of election violations prior to Tom being terminated. Retaliation?

At the last meeting, I was duped on a budget modification that awarded a raise to some board member's family member. I didn't realize this until a couple of them abstained from voting and I believe the person may also be related to the chain of command. This is getting to be a problem when family members are hired and raises given. This is not a new issue but continues and I am not ok with any of it. Sixty percent of Unit One board were closely related after this last election. With the new vacancy of the Unit One board seat, we will now have the potential of three board members and the chair seat

from one family, which will be 31 percent of the government body.

I would like to thank the Election Committee for all its time and commitment to our election process. This is a volunteer committee and they have been put through a lot over the years but I think this past year has been the worst. Their integrity has been constantly questioned and I bet they feel insecure with their jobs when they need to vote or decisions need to be made. We are a sovereign nation and we should want to run our own elections. We should also want them to abide by the Constitution and code.

While writing this report, more Election Committee members have resigned as well as the election attorney. Last week the chair of the committee resigned and another member. History is being made.

We hosted the Michigan tribes and governor for the Tribal-State Summit on Dec. 6. Each tribe had a few minutes alone with the governor to discuss their concerns. We had two as the host. Betty invited Aaron to attend and he sat with her. To my knowledge it was not open to the public, but rather elected leaders and staff. Usually for these events, attendees need to be on a list. I do want to thank the Banquet staff for a job well done and kudos to our staff for setting up this summit.

I would like to thank the Shores Casino team members for all their hard work in facilitating this year's Unit 3 Christmas party. It takes a lot of work and you guys do a great job every year for our kids, I appreciate each one of you!

I do believe some of the new board members are starting to see through some of the BS and are starting to feel comfortable with

not voting as a pack. I know it took me about three months or so to see things in a different light. Politics are hard and it is easier to cling to the new group in the beginning. I am hopeful that the votes and direction are for the Sault Tribe rather than alliances or political paybacks.

Betty has been threatening to bring removal petitions on the four of us old board members. I wonder what the violation is? Even though she was allowed to publish a legal opinion on her Facebook page prior to the board voting to publish it and she is allowed to brandish a weapon with being a concealed weapon carrier. Maybe I should be afraid of her like many others. She did threaten a contractor she could get rid of them like she did DJ.

Congratulations to Austin for winning the chair election. I do hope he works with all the board members and we find a way to bring the tribe together.

Shawn and I continue to have monthly unit meetings at the McCann School on the third Monday of the month at 6 p.m. I would like to wish all of our team members a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Thank you for all you do for our customers and membership!

Merry Christmas to all of our 50,000 Sault Tribe members across the country and all of our service men and women who cannot be with their families during the holidays.

I would like to wish one of my favorite elders a Happy 98th Birthday — Eleanor Fitzpatrick on Dec. 28. She is the oldest living Native American Veteran in the entire U.P.

Please contact me for any comments or concerns at bridgett91@yahoo.com, bsorenson@saulttribe.net or (906) 430-0536.

Unit II Director Kimberly Lee gives overview



**KIMBERLY LEE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT II**

I hope this unit report finds you warm and well. We have an abundance of holiday activities in the next couple of weeks. Elders and youth Christmas parties are incredibly exciting events, with many team members and volunteers helping to ensure that they are magical and fun for all. Chi miigwech to the hard-working team that makes these events possible.

On Dec. 6, Gov. Whitmer was in attendance as our tribe hosted this year's Tribal-State summit. We had the opportunity to dis-

cuss and bring up barriers and issues still affecting our people. While the governor was here, she announced the appointment of Judge Allie Greenleaf Maldonado to the Michigan Court of Appeals, being the first Native American citizen ever appointed. Judge Maldonado is a proud member of Little Traverse Bay Bands. Her passion and love for all that is lawful will ensure she serves us with sound decision-making in that position.

To the hard-working team that put this event together, you continue to impress me with your dedication to ensuring we can proudly host these events. We couldn't do it without you. Chi miigwech. Special recognition to Joe McDonald. Your attention to assuring events go off without a hitch doesn't go unnoticed. You work incredibly hard, and the work you do is appreciated. Traditional medicine came and opened. Gerard and Lori from Traditional Medicine came and blessed us with the opening ceremony. Alongside, our gentlemen from Unit 2 on "Mukkwa Giizhik" who always come with teachings that our spirits need. Thrown in with a sprinkle of Gerard's humor is always the best

way to start any event. We are so blessed to have them.

- On Dec. 7, the members elected Austin Lowes as our new chairperson. He will serve in that position until June 2024.

- The low-income energy assistance program (LIHEAP) has opened. As we know, heating our homes in the seven-county service area in the winter can be almost unbearable for some. Please get in touch with

Anishnaabek Community and Family Services, (906) 632-5250, to see if you qualify. Applications are also available at www.saulttribe.com. The program will close when funds are exhausted.

- We recently received exciting news. It is planned that the Epoufette access road will begin in early spring as soon as the weather allows. I know this has been long awaited.

- Please have your 12-

17-year-old children complete the youth health survey that they will be receiving in the mail. These surveys are crucial in determining where and how to prioritize their needs.

Continue to look after one another and yourselves. Check in on our Elders. I hope your holidays bring you love and joy.

Kimberly Lee
Klee@saulttribe.net
(909)379-8965

On market based housing



**ISAAC MCKECHNIE
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**
Aaniin,

To all our members and their families, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. To all the tribal employees, I want to express my gratitude for your commitment to our tribe and businesses. Your efforts are making a difference. It has been challenging but your hard work has helped restore the casinos and business operations to a new normal following disruption from COVID-19. Miigwech.

As I continue to learn my new role as your representative, I will share topics that may interest members. This month, top of mind is the American Rescue

Plan Act (ARPA) funded projects. In 2021, the board voted to set aside \$48 million in ARPA funding to be used for projects throughout the tribe's service units. To date, 16 projects have been identified. Unfortunately, the board and tribe have limited oversight of these initiatives, so my first question is why? Why would the board not have responsibility to ensure these funds are appropriately managed to ensure members receive maximum benefit?

Since early July, I have been trying to unravel the numerous resolutions and contracts associated with this large sum of money.

See "McKechnie," Page 27

From "Business Directory," P 21
 Don McKerchie
 Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
 (906) 635-1026
 eitrem@sbcglobal.net
 https://upcarpetmart.business.site/
 UpCycled Hippyie
 Jessica Shields
 Escanaba, MI

(906) 553-8430
 jessicaloushields@gmail.com
 https://www.facebook.com/upcycledhippie/
 Walsh Service Solutions
 Lawrence (Rich) Walsh
 Kalamazoo, MI 49009
 (866) 977-3835
 rich@walsh-ss.com

http://www.walshservicesolutions.com/
 Weddings By Judy
 Judy St. Louis-Scott
 St. Ignace, MI 49781
 (906) 643-7064
 stlouis92@yahoo.com
 https://www.facebook.com/weddingsbyjudyinthernmichigan

White Pine Lodge
 Jaime MacDonald
 Christmas, MI 49862
 (906) 387-1111
 info@whitepinelodgeonline.com
 https://whitepinelodgeonline.com/
 Wholistic Energy Healing
 Shelly Kucharczyk
 Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
 (906) 440-2224
 s.kucharczyk@yahoo.com
 https://www.facebook.com/wholisticwellnessolutions/

Windy Hills Bison Farms
 Carl Brasseur
 Tustin, MI 49688
 (231) 342-4245, (231) 388-3556
 brasseur@windyhillsbisonfarm.com
 https://windyhillsbisonfarm.com/
 Woody's One Stop
 Nick Lourcias
 Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
 (906) 632-7361
 nlourcias@hotmail.com

From "McKechnie," page 26
 The mystery is still unfolding. What I did discover was so concerning that I introduced a resolution that place a temporary hold on these projects until we could understand the complexity of these transactions. As I have always stated, we need to be good stewards and are required to disperse federal funds appropriately. This includes knowing and understanding these projects, the laws, policies, and regulations that govern federal funds.
 Out of the \$48 million, \$20 million was set aside for market-based housing. So, I asked, why market-based housing and how does it help our tribal housing needs? My research led me to understand that market-based housing is housing that already exists or is part of a proposed development that is based on the existing area market values and demand. This allows us not to have to rely so heavily on subsidies or government assistance. Looking at the direction the board took, my instinct led me to believe they were focused on trying to generate profits from these development projects. Meeting tribal housing needs was not the top priority.
 Making a profit should not have been the focus. First, our members need affordable housing. Second, when using ARPA funding, you cannot generate a profit, period. The board must step in and make a course correction to avoid being in violation of the federal mandate.
 Here is the situation. We have two entities who oversee tribal housing assets — Sault Tribe Housing and DeMawating Development. In March 2022, the board by resolution authorized DeMawating Development to execute the market-based project. At the same time, the board also authorized the Economic Development director to administratively establish a budget for the amended DeMawating Development market-based housing plan. DeMawating Development then executed a contract with Gitchi Auto Home & RV Sales for the purchase and installation of the new homes. Gitchi then executed two separate contracts with the newly formed company Binesi. The first contract for \$3 million was to coordinate the site designs, contracts, procurement, and to construct the foundations for the new homes. The second contract for \$2.188 million was to replace the antiquated infrastructure and install new utilities in the new trailers.
 I will always wonder why such a complicated scenario was created and how a used car sales manager can execute contracts for over \$5 million without any oversight from the board. I worked for the tribe for 23 years. To my knowledge it has been standard practice that the chairperson or his designee are the only people that have the authority to enter million-dollar contracts. Furthermore, these types of transactions required

board approval. Don't get me started on the fact that they totally skipped over the tribe's procurement process. Could members have been served better if board oversight was not removed during this elaborate structure? Yes, I think so.
 Now our social media critics would lead you to believe that this is a formidable project for our tribe, and I do agree it could have been, but the legality of this project leaves room for concern. Furthermore, this project should never have been started this late into the construction season; our

U.P. weather is not very unforgiving. As it stands now, the homes are slated to arrive in early January and will be set on the foundations as they arrive. Weather permitting, the project is slated to be completed in late spring of 2023 with landscaping scheduled for June.
 I look forward to finding new ways to help members thrive in the coming New Year. Enjoy the holidays with family and friends and please be safe.
 Isaac McKechnie,
 Director Unit I
 (906) 203-4787
 imckechnie@saulttribe.net

Wicked Walleye Tackle
 Melinda Kolbus
 Rapid River, MI 49878
 (906) 286-1886
 wickedwalleyet@yahoo.com
 wickedwalleyetackle.com

Willis Pest Control
 Willard Willis
 Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
 (906) 322-7445
 batman_will@hotmail.com
 https://www.willispestcontrol.com/

Y & R Complete Outdoor Services
 Ron Baird
 Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
 (906) 203-7388
 yolandanolanbaird@gmail.com
 Zodiac Party Store/Taste of the Upper Peninsula
 Keith Massaway
 St. Ignace, MI 49781
 (906) 643-8643
 kmassaway@msn.com
 https://www.facebook.com/zodiacpartystore/

Cars! SUVs! Trucks!



Get Them

ALL at GITCHI AUTO

✓ **TRADE INS WELCOME!**

✓ **GENERAL PUBLIC WELCOME!**

✓ **TAX EXEMPTION SPECIALISTS!**



WE BUY CARS



GitchiAuto.com



906-203-4491

2270 Shunk Rd.

Cars • Trucks • RVs • ATVs • Scooters • Homes • And More!

Open 6 Days A Week: Mon - Fri 9-6 • Sat 9-2

**Bank2
and HUD
184 Home
Loan
Program**





KEWADIN CASINOS ENTERTAINMENT

DECEMBER

John Berry - 26th Annual Christmas Tour

Saturday | 10th | 8 p.m. | \$26.50

Exclusive VIP Packages Available

Sault Ste. Marie DreamMakers Theater

Come celebrate Christmas with...

John Berry



26th Annual Christmas Tour

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10 | 8P.M.

TICKETS \$26.50

DREAMMAKERS THEATER



New Year's Line Up

Manistique

Papa John & Black Mirage

Hessel

DJ

Sault Ste. Marie

American Band

St. Ignace

Peril



tickets.kewadin.com
1-800-KEWADIN