



Win Awenen Nisitotung

April 12, 2023
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Bahweting Bidajimowin • Official newspaper of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

Sault Tribe partners with Hiawatha Forest

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. – The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians announced April 3 that it has signed a Tribal Forest Protection Act Agreement with the Hiawatha National Forest. The agreement includes a \$364,000 investment from the U.S. Department of Agriculture that will support co-stewardship activities to monitor and manage the health of the Upper Peninsula's sensitive remnant boreal forest ecosystems.

Under the agreement, the tribe is seeking to protect remnant boreal forest ecosystems that include 4,735,678 acres and are within the 1836 Ceded Territory and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. This includes significant portions of over 900,000 acres of Forest Systems lands on the Hiawatha National Forest.

"Our ancestors have lived on these lands for thousands of

years, so we're glad to be able to combine generations of traditional local knowledge with forestry management science," Sault Tribe Chairman Austin Lowes said.

Boreal remnant ecosystems are a defining feature of the Upper Great Lakes Region. These lowland-conifer-dominated forests include white cedar, eastern hemlock, balsam fir, black and white spruce and hardwoods like birch and red maple. Lowland boreal remnants can experience high concentrations of animals in winter when snows are deep and food and cover for wildlife are limiting, which can make them particularly vulnerable to climate change.

Competing interests for the forests require that they are managed carefully. Over half of all Sault Tribe harvest and gathering activities take place on the Hiawatha and Huron-Manistee

National Forests, with members harvesting a variety of species, including big game, small game, waterfowl, furbearers, and medicinal plants and mushrooms. Timber production and outdoor recreation are also significant uses of the forest.

Lowes said the tribe hopes the partnership with Hiawatha National Forest will result in a new management model that leverages western science while engaging Anishinaabe knowledge frameworks developed over centuries. Under the agreement, the Sault Tribe Wildlife department will take a lead role in the planning and monitoring prescribed fires and other forestry management projects that help build the resilience in the Upper Peninsula's climate-vulnerable remnant boreal forest ecosystems. The

USFS will then implement the plans.

"This agreement is really a codification of more than a decade of collaborative work between our tribe's wildlife program and the Hiawatha National Forest," Lowes said. "Our goal is to ensure that the forest is not only here for the next generation but the next seven generations."

This latest USDA investment brings the total funding the tribe has received to over \$2 million in the last 10 years to support collaborative work to understand remnant boreal forest ecology in the 1836 Treaty Ceded Territory. Other projects have included research and management of species like gray wolf, ruffed grouse, snowshoe hare and marten, as well as understanding how prescribed fire and silviculture

can be used to build resilience in these important ecosystems.

"Many of these projects will tackle our most pressing issues, including climate change and the wildfire crisis, while creating job opportunities for tribal members with the benefit of incorporating indigenous knowledge into ecological restoration activities," Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said when announcing this most recent investment. "This is just one example of how our renewed commitment to work with tribal nations has multiple benefits, including expanding opportunities for tribal youth to pursue land management careers and integrating indigenous traditional ecological knowledge passed through the generations into ongoing co-stewardship activities."

Sault Tribe celebrates 1972-2022 50th anniversary with Tribal Grand Assembly

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors invites all tribal members to a Tribal Grand Assembly Thursday, June 29, and Friday, June 30, to celebrate the tribe's 50th anniversary since federal recognition. The Grand Assembly will be held on the Sault Tribe reservation at Niigaanagizhik Ceremonial Building on Ice Circle Drive just prior to the Sault Tribe Powwow, which starts the evening of June 30.

All Sault Tribe members are encouraged to attend. Many events are planned to offer tribal members an educational and enjoyable experience, with tribal



program displays, cultural education opportunities, tribal vendors of all kinds, all culminating with the tribe's annual summer powwow June 30-July 2.

Please watch for further information.

www.saulttribe.com

Kewadin Casinos announces settlement with former development partner

See General Counsel's Column on page 21

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. – After several years of legal disputes, the Kewadin Casinos Gaming Authority announced today that it has reached a settlement agreement with its former development partner.

Under the agreement, Kewadin Casinos will pay its former partners JLLJ Development and Lansing Future Development II a total of \$25 million by April 12, 2023. The agreement also stipulates that Kewadin will also pay up to \$10 million from the proceeds of its malpractice claim against its former legal counsel, Patterson, Earnhart, Real Bird & Wilson LLP. If Kewadin is unsuccessful in its suit against Patterson, Kewadin will pay its former development partners an additional \$5 million in place of the \$10 million described earlier.

The Patterson law firm had served as the Kewadin Casinos and Sault Tribe general counsel since June 2020. The firm had previously indicated to casino leadership that it was qualified to handle this case. The malpractice suit against the firm focuses on its failing to properly defend Kewadin in the litigation, resulting in a default judgement.

"The default judgment caused by the Patterson firm has severely impacted the reputation of both Kewadin Casinos and Sault Tribe, and it's important that they are held into account for the \$88 million in damages against us," Kewadin Casinos General Counsel Aaron Schlehuber said.

Schlehuber explained that the settlement agreement Kewadin reached with its former development partners represents nearly a 75% reduction from the \$88 mil-

lion in damages Ingham County Judge Joyce Draganchuk had previously ordered. It also avoids a lengthy appeals process to fight the ruling, the significant legal expenses that would have been incurred, and millions of dollars in interest that would otherwise pile on each year.

"This agreement allows Kewadin to move forward and now focus 100% of its efforts on providing the best entertainment services possible to the areas we serve," Schlehuber said. "Casino revenues contribute significantly toward the services the Sault Tribe provides to its members, including health care and cultural programs, so this settlement ensures that the casino will continue to have the resources to maximize our operations and continue serving the community."

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

FROM ARC

More than 1 in 2 (56.1%) American Indian/Alaskan Native women and more than 1 in 4 (27.5%) American Indian/Alaskan Native men have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime. Native Americans are twice as likely to experience rape or sexual assault compared to all races. Doing our part during Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) means educating ourselves about and learning how to stand up against sexual violence.

Sexual Violence (SV) indicates physical sexual acts without consent or when the person cannot consent. SV refers to crimes like



sexual assault, rape, and sexual abuse. SV often intersects with other crimes and forms of violence, such as domestic violence, missing and murdered Indigenous relatives (MMIR), child abuse,

and elder abuse, to name a few. It does not discriminate — anyone of any race, age, gender, or orientation can experience or perpetrate sexual violence. Perpetrators of SV are usually someone the victim knows, such as a friend, intimate partner, or family member.

Sexual Assault (SA) follows this same definition and is the physical act of SV. Acts of SA are criminal and may involve physical, emotional or psychological force; coercion, intimidation, threats, ignoring the victim's objections, or causing or taking advantage of the victim's intoxication.

See "SA Awareness," page 20

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National Crime Victims' Rights Week recognized on April 23-29

National Crime Victims' Week (NCVW) has been honored every April since 1981. President Ronald W. Reagan professed the first National Crime Victims' Rights Week and issued an Executive Order establishing the President's Task Force on Victims of Crime.

This dedicated week of honor focuses on the achievements of those who have fought hard for the rights of victims of crimes, to honor those who have served victims of crime, and of course, to recognize and remember victims of crime.

According to the Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime, this year's National Crime Victims' Rights Week's theme is, Survivor Voices: Elevate. Engage. Effect Change. This year's theme calls upon communities to amplify the voices of survivors and create environments where survivors have the confidence that they will be heard, believed, and supported.

A victim is a person who has suffered physical or emotional harm, property damage, or economic loss as a result of a crime. There are rights available to victims of crime as well as several programs available to help recover from the detriment of a crime. Victim advocates, counselors, lawyers, and assistance programs are available for victims across Michigan. Michigan's Crime Victims' Compensation Program (CVCP) is available to assist eligible crime victims and their immediate families with the financial costs of a crime.

Basic eligibility requirements must be met to qualify for such compensation. Compensation may cover victimization-related medical, dental, optical, or counseling services. The CVCP may cover loss of earnings due to physical injuries preventing the victim from working or the loss of support to dependents of homicide victims. Victims who require eyeglasses, hearing aids, dentures, or prosthetic devices may have the cost of the items covered by the CVCP.

Funeral expenses, crime scene clean-up, or grief counseling services may also be covered for victims or surviving family members of crime.

Michigan's Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has a Crime Victim Compensation Reference Guide that helps determine the qualifications for receiving assistance. It is essential to clarify what is not covered by the CVCP. The loss of, or damage to, personal property or vehicle; pain and suffering or emotional distress; relocation costs; living expenses; or cost of participating in a court trial are not covered by the CVCP. Expenses paid by public or private health insurance, life insurance, disability insurance, workers' compensation, automobile insurance, and so forth, are additionally not covered by the CVCP.

Michigan's DHHS website provides information for victims of crime at www.michigan.gov/crimevictims. A victims-only toll-free number is also available at (877) 251-7373. A list of direct services for crime victims is available at <https://ovc.ojp.gov/help-for-victims/toll-free->

and-online-hotlines.

The Sault Tribe Advocacy Resource Center has victim advocates available to assist by calling (906) 632-1808 or toll-free at (877) 639-7820. Please visit the ARC website at www.arcsaulttribe.com for more information.

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Correction —

On page 4 of the March 15, 2023, issue of Win Awenen Nisitotung, the article, "Bench Warrant Amnesty Program March 15 through April 15," lists Joseph

Morrow. Mr. Morrow did not have an outstanding bench warrant and his name was inadvertently added to the list. The Sault Tribe Court regrets this error.

Child Abuse Prevention Month Drive Thru Event

When: April 21, 2023 5-7 PM
Where: Big Bear Parking Lot
2 Ice Circle, Sault Ste. Marie

Free t-shirts & goodie bags

Brought to you by Anishnaabek Community and Family Services

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

Niiwin Noodin Powwow

Saturday, June 10, 2023

Behind Manistique Tribal Community Center
5698W US Highway 2 Manistique MI 49854
Next To The Kewadin Casino

Friday, June 9:
Sault Tribe Traditional Medicine Talking Circle at 6 p.m.

Saturday, June 10:
Grand Entry at 1 & 7 p.m.
Feast at 4 p.m.

Head Veteran: Marty Reinhardt
Host Drum: Medicine Bear
Co-Host Drum: Four Thunders
Head Male Dancer: Matt Wyers
Head Female Dancer: Francie Wyers

Vendors call: (906) 450-0213 or (906) 450-9667

General Powwow Contact: niiwinnoodinpowwow@gmail.com or (906) 440-8138

Public Welcome to Attend!

SafeTALK Training April 20

Suicide is preventable. Anyone can make a difference. SafeTALK Training is a half-day suicide alertness workshop for anyone over the age of 15, regardless of prior experience or training.

- Thursday, April 20, 8 a.m.-12 p.m.
- Big Bear Community Room
- Space is limited, Register today.
- Contact Jenna Killips, jkillips2@saulttribe.net, 906-635-6075.

Summer Youth Jobs available

The Sault Tribe WIOA Department is accepting applications for the Summer Youth Employment Program. This program is for Native American youth ages 14 to 21 who reside within the seven-county service area (Marquette, Alger, Chippewa, Luce, Mackinaw, Delta and Schoolcraft counties). Applications may be picked up at the WIOA office, located on the 2nd floor of the Big Bear, 2 Ice Circle, Sault Ste. Marie Mich., or by contacting Brenda Cadreau at (906) 635-4767 or BCadreau@saulttribe.net. Deadline to apply is May 26, 2023.

2023 Elder Scholarship Program announced

Applications are being solicited for four one-time \$500 scholarships from the Sault Tribe elders for qualified freshmen enrolled in public colleges, universities or trade schools.

All applicants must be registered Sault Tribe members with the following qualifications:

- Graduated from an accredited high school with a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.50. Or successfully completed and passed all five General

Education Development (GED) equivalency tests with a minimum score of 40 and an average score of 45 and must possess a GED certificate. Accepted or enrolled in any two- or four-year public college, university or trade school in any field of study as a full-time student.

Applicants must submit letters of application that include:

- Cover page that includes name, address, telephone number, email address, proof of tribal enrollment

and academic major or course of study to be pursued.

- Transcript from the applicant's high school verifying the cumulative grade point average. Or, proof of achieving GED requirements stated above.
- Letter from the college, university or trade school, showing acceptance for the 2023-2024 school year.
- Essay of 300-500 words describing how you feel a college education will benefit you and

your career objectives and why this scholarship will help you achieve your goal.

Deadline for applications is June 30, at 5 p.m. All requirements must be received by the Elder Service Division, ATTN Elder Scholarship, 2076 Shunk Rd, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

Questions? Contact Holly Kibble, Elder Service Division Director, at (906) 635-4971.

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 Jessica Dumback at 523 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783, or call (906) 635-6050 with 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** - Five vacancies (4-year term)
- Health Board** - Two vacancies (4-year term)
- Housing/Utility Authority** - One vacancy (4-year term)
- Special Needs/Enrollment Committee** - Unit I - Three vacancies Unit II - Two vacancies

Unit III - Two vacancies

Elder Advisory Committee

- Unit I - Sault - One alternate vacancy (4-year term)
- Unit II - Hessel - One alternate vacancy (4-year term)
- Unit II - Naubinway - One regular vacancy (4-year term)
- Unit III - St. Ignace - One alternate vacancy (4-year term)
- Unit V - Munising - One regular vacancy (4-year term)
- Unit V - Marquette - One alternate

vacancy (4-year term)

Elder Subcommittees

- Unit I - Sault - One alternate vacancy (4-year term)
- Unit II - Hessel - One regular vacancy, one alternate vacancy (4-year term)
- Unit III - St. Ignace - One regular vacancy (4-year term)
- Unit IV - Escanaba - Two alternate vacancies (4-year term)
- Unit V - Munising - One regular, two alternate vacancies (4-years)

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.

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

Win Awenen Nisitotung

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

April 12, 2023
Sucker Moon
Namebin Giizis

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

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

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

Win Awenen Nisitotung is funded by the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of

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

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

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

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

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Tribes, First Nations rebuke Canada's support of Line 5

PIPELINE POSES DIRECT THREATS TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF FRONTLINE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

GENEVA, Switzerland — Representatives of 51 tribal and First Nations, located in what is now the United States and Canada, submitted a report to the United Nations Human Rights Council calling on the government of Canada to stop violating the human rights of Indigenous peoples through its support for Enbridge's Line 5 crude oil pipeline. First constructed in 1953, Line 5 runs between Wisconsin and Ontario, traversing major waterways posing direct threats to tribal nations, communities, and ecosystems along its path.

The groups submitted the report for consideration under Canada's upcoming Universal Periodic Review (UPR), online at www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/upr-sessions. As a U.N. member state, Canada's human rights record is periodically scrutinized by U.N. member states through the UPR at the Human Rights Council. The 2023 UPR session will take place Nov. 6-17 this year, and it will be Canada's fourth review.

Line 5, which trespasses on traditional Anishinaabe territories in Wisconsin, Michigan, and Ontario, faces lawsuits from tribal nations

and the state of Michigan. Rather than respect and defend the rights of Indigenous peoples, Canada's government has shielded Enbridge from being shut down, invoking the 1977 Transit Pipeline Treaty with the U.S. and making legal submissions in U.S. courts to keep the pipeline operating.

The communities and their council offered the following statements:

"The rights of Indigenous people, of my people, are rights that should be respected by all sovereigns both domestic and abroad," said President Whitney Gravelle of the Bay Mills Indian Community. "Canada's support of Line 5 is a disaster in the making for the entire Great Lakes region because an oil spill will poison our fish, harm our sacred sites, contaminate our drinking water — and ultimately destroy our Indigenous way of life."

"The Straits of Mackinac are central to the Anishinaabe creation story, which makes this location sacred from both a cultural and historical perspective in the formation of the Anishinaabe people," Chairperson Austin Lowes of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians said. "Protecting the Straits is also a matter of the utmost environmental and economic importance — both to our people and the state of Michigan."

"The Bad River Band is saddened by the fact that Canada's actions have required us to raise our complaints with the United Nations, but Canada has left

the Tribes with no choice," said Chairman Michael Wiggins Jr. of the Bad River Band. "Canada has deliberately interfered in our efforts to protect our homeland. It has sought to block us from evicting a company that has trespassed on our lands for a decade and whose actions pose an existential threat to the Bad River watershed and our very way of life. It has likewise interfered with the efforts of Bay Mills and our other sister tribes in Michigan to protect their sacred waterways and fisheries. Canada's prioritization of the profits of its oil and gas companies over the rights of indigenous peoples on both sides of the border demands the attention of all people of good faith."

"Canada's international human rights obligations are clear," said EarthRights General Counsel Marco Simons. "The state must respect and actively protect Indigenous peoples' lands and way of life, including by regulating the activities of the corporations under its jurisdiction that pose threats to Indigenous rights. Not only has Canada failed in this obligation by refusing to decommission the degrading Line 5 or even consult with the affected Indigenous populations, but it is actively intervening legally and diplomatically to ensure that Enbridge can operate Line 5 for decades to come. Indigenous communities deserve better."

"Line 5 poses an unacceptable risk to the treaty-protected natural and cultural resources of Indigenous Peoples around the Great

Lakes," added Elizabeth Goldstein, Emma Schwartz, and Jack Schnettler, student attorneys in the Georgetown Environmental Law and Justice Clinic. "By supporting fossil fuel projects like Line 5, Canada is exacerbating climate change and perpetuating environmental injustices. The clinic was thrilled to work with the Bay Mills Indian Community to expose these injustices and support frontline communities that experience devastating impacts of climate change while being excluded from decision-making affecting their lands and very way of life."

"Canada's proactive actions to support Line 5 in the face of the climate crisis, its environmental and human rights risks, and the clear opposition of affected Indigenous communities stands in direct contrast to its climate and human rights obligations," said Tamara Morgenthau, senior attorney, Center for International Environmental Law. "Amidst the climate crisis and an urgent need to phase out fossil fuels, Canada is locking us into further dependency on fossil fuels."

The communities urge the Government of Canada to:

— Withdraw its invocation of the Pipeline Treaty and its positions in U.S. litigation opposing decommissioning Line 5.

— Ensure that affected Indigenous Nations, who are sovereigns and human rights holders, are invited to participate in discussions regarding Line 5's future,

including any negotiations under the Pipeline Treaty, so long as they continue.

— Interpret all international treaties, including the Pipeline Treaty, consistently with Canada's human rights obligations.

— Ensure affected Indigenous Peoples' FPIC before providing support for extractive sector projects and withdraw support from projects that do not have affected Indigenous Peoples' FPIC.

— Ensure that corporations under Canadian jurisdiction do not cause or contribute to foreseeable threats to human rights.

The report was submitted by the Anishinabek Nation, Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Bay Mills Indian Community, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Hannahville Indian Community, Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Match-e-be-nash-she-wish Band of Pottawatomis of Michigan, Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi, Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, together with the Center for International Environmental Law, EarthRights International, Environmental Defence Canada, and the Georgetown University Law Center Environmental Law and Justice Clinic.



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April 3-25, 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Manistique | Wednesdays & Thursdays

April 5-26, 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

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SPRING FEVER SLOT TOURNAMENTS

Sault Ste. Marie | Mondays & Tuesdays

April 3 - May 2, 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Semi Finals - May 12 | Finals - May 19

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Sault Ste. Marie | May 13

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

Board meets, passes resolutions in February

February 7

A meeting of the Sault Tribe Board of Directors was held Feb. 7, 2023, in Sault Ste. Marie at the Kewadin Casino Hotel and Convention Center. Twenty-three resolutions were approved.

Resolution 2023-053 — MEDC Tamarack, establishment of FY 2024 budget: The board approved the establishment of a FY 2024 budget for MEDC Tamarack with State of Michigan Revenue monies of \$150,000.

#054 — ACFS, Indian Child Welfare Act, establishment FY 2023 budget: The board approved the establishment of a FY 2023 budget for Indian Child Welfare Act with BIA Revenue monies of \$196,955 and \$127,834.36 in Tribal Support.

#055 — ACFS, USDA Food Distribution on Indian Reservation, establishment of FY 2023 budget: The board approved the establishment of a FY 2023 budget for USDA Food Distribution on Indian Reservation with federal USDA revenue monies of \$200,000.

#056 — Health Center, Manistique Dental FY 2023 budget modification: The board approved the FY 2023 budget modification for Health Center - Manistique Dental for a change to the personnel page and a reallocation of expenses.

#057 — Health Division, Mental Health and third-party revenue, FY 2023 budget modifications: The board approved the FY 2023 budget modification to Mental Health for a decrease in Third-Party Revenue monies of \$13,494.45. The FY 2023 budget modification to Third-Party Revenue was also approved for a decrease in the transfer out of \$13,494.45.

#058 — Health Center, Special Diabetes, establishment of FY 2023 budget: The board approved the establishment of a FY 2023 budget for Special Diabetes with IHS Revenue monies of \$275,000.

#059 — Health Center, third party revenue, FY 2023 budget modification: The board approved the FY 2023 budget

modification to Health Division-Third Party Revenue for an increase in Revenue monies of \$1,880,000.

#060 — Grand assembly, establishment of FY 2023 budget: The board approved the establishment of a FY 2023 budget for the Grand Assembly with Tribal Support monies of \$85,000.

#061 — Legal, tribal attorney, establishment of FY 2023 budget: The board approved the establishment of a FY 2023 budget for a tribal attorney with Tribal Support monies of \$1,104,943.86.

#062 — Tribal Operations, establishment of FY 2023 budget: The board approved the establishment of a FY 2023 budget for Tribal Operations with Tribal Support monies of \$422,391.44 and Other Revenue monies \$657,700.

#063 — Approving temporary surface activities license agreement: Cloverland Electric Cooperative needs to access tribal lands to relocate guy wires that currently obstruct a snowmobile trail. To do that, the tribe is entering into a temporary surface activities license agreement with Cloverland allowing them access on tribal land to relocate the guy wires.

#064 — Wheelchair accessible van purchase for Elder Program: The board approved the purchase of five wheelchair accessible vans at a cost of \$411,675, to be funded by American Rescue Plan Act State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.

#065 — 2023 BIA, GLRI habitats and species grant, Ma'iingan in boreal forest ecosystems: The Bureau of Indian Affairs continues to provide competitive funding through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to restore wildlife habitat in the Great Lakes Basin. The board authorized Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes, or his authorized representative, to sign, negotiate, amend and execute any agreements for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative administered by the Bureau of Indian

Affairs.

#066 — 2023 BIA GLRI, Invasive Species Program: The Bureau of Indian Affairs provides funding through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative for invasive species management. The board authorized Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes, or his authorized representative, to sign, negotiate, amend and execute any agreements for the 2023 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

#067 — Application approval for 2023 BIA Circle of Flight Program Funding opportunity: The Wildlife Program believes that increased manoomin (wild rice) restoration efforts, including seeding, monitoring, and research, would benefit the Sault Tribe community and manoomin beds within the 1836 Ceded Territory, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs continues to provide competitive funding through the Circle of Flight Program. The board authorized the Wildlife Program to apply for the BIA Circle of Flight Program grant opportunity.

#068 — Application approval for 2023 BIA, FWR Invasive Species Program funding opportunity: The Wildlife Program believes that increased regional coordination and on-the-ground stewardship actions around coastal wetland conservation, restoration, and invasive species management efforts would benefit the Sault Tribe community and aquatic ecosystems within the 1836 Ceded Territory. The BIA continues to provide competitive funding through the Invasive Species Program. The board authorized the Wildlife Program to apply for the 2023 BIA FWR Invasive Species Program grant opportunity.

#069 — 2023 BIA GLRI, commercial fishery: The Bureau of Indian Affairs continues to provide competitive funding for Great Lakes Restoration Initiative in order to expand sampling of Sault Tribe's commercial fishery harvest. The board authorized Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes to

sign, negotiate, and execute any agreements for the 2023 GLRI funding administered by the BIA.

#070 — 2023 BIA GLRI, Deepwater and Spawning Site Survey: The BIA continues to provide competitive funding for GLRI in order to continue surveying deep water fish communities and expand to survey shallower spawning sites. The board authorized Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes to sign, negotiate, and execute any agreements for the 2023 GLRI funding administered by the BIA.

#071 — 2023 BIA GLRI, Whitefish Rearing: The BIA continues to provide competitive funding for GLRI in order to continue experimentally rearing whitefish. The board authorized Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes to sign, negotiate, and execute any agreements for the 2023 GLRI funding administered by the BIA.

#072 — Acceptance of forensic audit proposal for JKL Fiduciary Committee: The board appointed REDW Advisors & CPAs to perform the forensic audit of the JKL Fiduciary Committee, for the period Jan. 1, 2008, through Sept. 30, 2022, for an amount not to exceed \$75,000, with funds found within the current budget.


#073 — Award a contract to RSM US LLP for accounting services: The tribe presents yearly audited financial statements in compliance with generally accepted accounting principles, as endorsed by the governmental accounting standards board, statements and interpretations for governmental entities. As of Dec. 31, 2022, the standard for lease recognition has been revised under GASB 87 to more accurately portray lease obligations and will require significant effort to bring the tribe into compliance. The tribe wishes to award a contract to RSM US LLP for accounting and compliance services related to Generally Accepted Standards Board Statement 87, Leases (GASB 87). The board authorized the chairman to execute any and all documents to engage the accounting

services of RSM US LLP, and authorizes the CFO to create the necessary budget documents that appropriate the funds, not to exceed \$170,000 from Tribal Operations (Cost Center #1 160) necessary to complete the project.

#074 — Possession and return of public records, tribal records, and documents of the tribe: Any tribal member or board of directors member who is in possession of an original public record, tribal record, or tribal document of the tribe needs to immediately return the documents to the tribe's public records officer. Failure to return original public records of the tribe will result in penalties as proscribed under tribal law, including but not limited to: Chapter 71, Criminal Offenses, and Chapter 14, Rules of Parliamentary Procedure Ordinance.

#075 — Supporting the Seneca Nation of Indians in denouncing Governor Hochul's veto of the Unmarked Burial Site Protection Act: The New York State Senate and Assembly passed legislation in the spring of 2022 that would have provided significant protections for the discovery of burial ground, human remains, or funerary objects, similar to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, and Governor Hochul waited until the last minute and vetoed this important legislation on Dec. 30, 2022. The Seneca Nation of Indians of New York passed a resolution denouncing the Governor's veto, stating that "it demonstrates an utter disregard for the fundamental rights of Native nations, Native people and all New Yorkers." The Sault Tribe joins the Seneca Nation of Indians of New York in denouncing Governor Hochul's veto of the Unmarked Burial Site Protection Act.

To view these and prior approved resolutions in their entirety, visit the board downloads section located at www.saulttribe.com.



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Jensen completes executive MBA in healthcare leadership

Rose Jensen, MBA, BSN, RN, completed her Executive MBA in Healthcare Leadership from the University of Tennessee Haslam College of Business, Knoxville, Tenn., in Dec. 2022 with a 4.0 GPA. Rose earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from LSSU in 1995 and maintains her registered nurse license. Rose is a member of the Sault Tribe. She is the daughter of the late Ed and Shirley Patrick of Dafter, and Linda (Brown) Goldsworthy of Waterford, Mich. Rose is the director of Supply Chain and Value Analysis at the University of Tennessee Medical Center in Knoxville.



Anishinaabemowin 2023

"What you do every day matters more than what you do once in a while." (Source Unknown) Use this gift which is our language. (Your People)

Minookami!

mi-noo-ka-mi

It's spring!

Naagadawaamdan ezhiwebag.

naa-ga-da-waam-dan e-zhi-we-bag

Look around at what's happening.

Goon ningiza.

goon nin-gi-za

The snow is melting.

Geyaabi gsinaa bangii.

ge-yaa-bi gi-si-naa ban-gii

It is still a little bit cold.

Dibishkoose namebinak g'wii giigoonhke.

di-bish-koo-se na-me-bin-ak waa bis-kaa-bii-waad

It's time for us to fish for suckers.

It is also time for (**dibishkoose**) male red-winged blackbirds (**memeskiniin'siwag**) to return to their summer breeding grounds. They claim a piece of a cattail marsh (**pakweyashk mishkiig**) for their territory, and they defend it vigorously — competing (**miigaanaawaa**) with other males. The females arrive about two weeks later to start making a nest (**saswaan'ke**).

How you play: (waa zhi taageyin)

1. You will win by getting all your pieces into your opponent's safe house (**enji waan'kiid**) first. Those are the larger center houses.
2. The first player rolls the die and moves one of their pieces counter-clockwise through the houses that number of times. You can only land in an empty house.
3. You must move just one of their pieces each turn.
4. If the only option you have is to move one of your pieces out of the safe house, you have to do it.
5. You can only skip a turn if you have no valid moves.
6. When you win, you say "N'bakanaage!" (I win!)

Fun Fact: Traditionally we named our months, or moons, for what is happening or what we're doing at that time. Since we live in different parts of the country, those happenings occur at different times. So we may have different names for the moons.

Pronunciation?? You'll find the Anishinaabemowin words in this lesson 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 *awesome* **a** sounds like the a in *about*
ii sounds like the e in *be* **i** sounds like the i in *dip*
oo sounds like the o in *go* **o** sounds like the oo's in *book*
e sounds like the e in *Ed* **g** sounds only like it does in *go*

We underlined the syllables that get the emphasis.

Pronounce all the letters. Big deal: if n has an H or S after it, the n 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.



Namebin Giizis Sucker Moon

by Susan Askwith

Giizis zaage'we washime wiiba.

gii-zis zaa-ge-we wa-shi-me wii-ba

The sun appears earlier.

Aanind zaagibagaa.

aa-nind zaa-gi-ba-gaa

Some leaves are coming out.



Taagen maanda taagewin!

Play this game!

(naasaap m emeskiniin'si — like a red-winged blackbird)

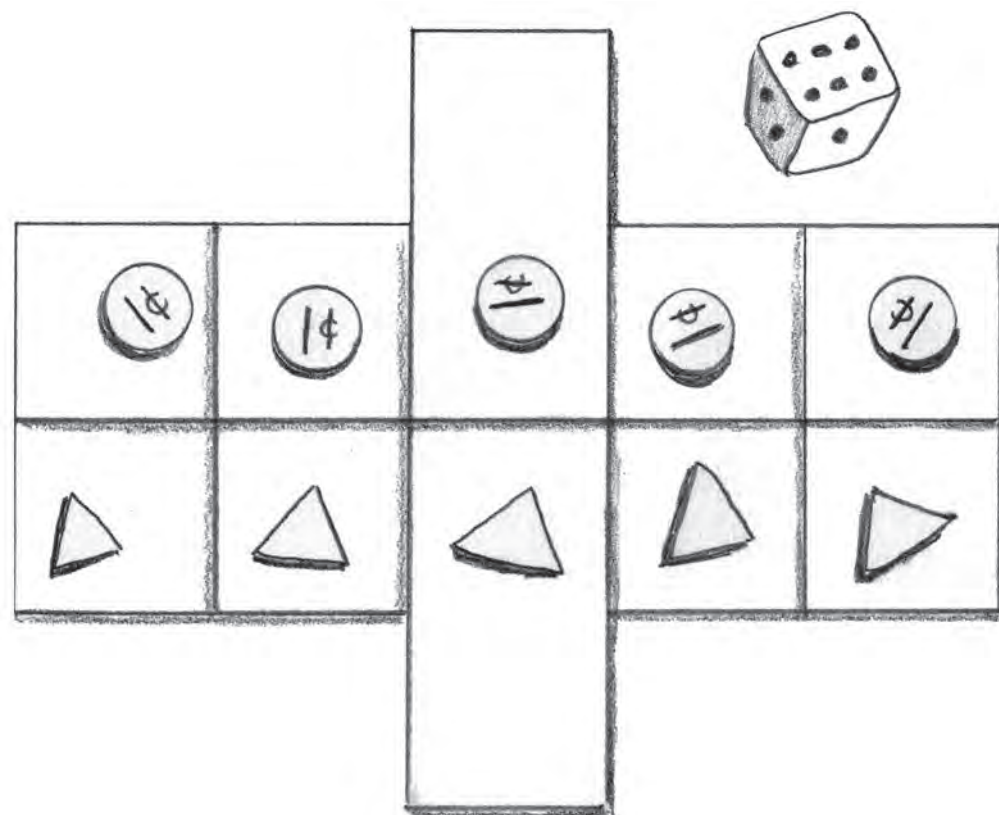
Naanan Wiigwaaman zhinkaazo.

It is called **Five Houses**.

Draw this pattern on a paper or maybe on the ground! Two players each get five game pieces.

Use coins or shapes cut from cereal boxes. Arrange them as shown on the pattern here.

You'll need one die, too.



You know it's time to vote when you notice the suckers are running.



Make a sentence using the words defense, defeat and detail. OK! When a horse jumps over defense, defeat go over before detail.

My wife complains that I never buy her jewelry. In my defense, I didn't even know she sold jewelry.

How do soccer players stay cool during the game? They stand close to the fans.

Why do basketball players like cookies? It's just another excuse to dunk.

My girlfriend dumped me saying I'm too competitive. I don't know what that means, but I know who won the "I love you more" game!

What kind of bird should never be taken to a bank? A robin bird, of course.

Landback to the Future: Recovering Indigenous territory

BY NICK REO, SAULT TRIBE CITIZEN

This essay goes out to all you Anishinaabe nieces and nephews who are part of the Landback Movement, and to those of you who want to know more about it.

Landback is the latest version of a longstanding movement to recover Indigenous territory and make space for our communities to live freely within our territories. The movement is also about restoring Indigenous authority to care for our homelands. The

Anishinaabe and relatives from other nations have been at this work for centuries, ever since European colonizers first started laying false claims to our lands.

For the past 10 years, I have been travelling to Aotearoa, New Zealand, to share stories from our communities, bring home lessons from work happening in Indigenous Māori communities, and build kinship with Māori families.

I'll share a brief story to help explain why these international connections matter.

One evening on a recent visit to Aotearoa, I had a vision. I was in Ahipara, a coastal town in the far north. I was sitting on a deck with a nephew-friend-cousin watching waves roll into shore under a full moon. We noticed this big shadow moving in the water. At first, we thought it was a whale, but later realized it looked more like a large jimaan (canoe).

Just as we realized what we were looking at, my spirit traveled into the water, under the waves,

gliding like a sea turtle until I bumped into that canoe. I climbed on board and joined a party of Māori paddlers. I clearly saw their traditional outfits, tattoos, and paddles. I remember the carvings and paintings on the canoe and have been told that the colors and designs I saw have significance to west coast Māori. The paddlers asked me why I was there, what I wanted. As they asked these questions, I saw a group of people on shore struggling to hold a heavy tarp or canopy over their heads.

Then, the vision zoomed out and I saw many different groups of people suffering in the same fashion, spread across our whole planet. Suddenly these canopies and the people under them became connected by some kind of rope, making a pattern of connections like a spider web. Once they connected, the canopies lifted, freeing all the groups of people.

I believe this vision was meant as a lesson and source of encouragement. See "Landback," page 16

Sault Tribe Traditional Medicine Program's

WOMEN'S FULL MOON CEREMONY



05.05.2023

WHAT TO BRING

- Ribbon Skirt
- Copper Cup
- Tobacco
- Yellow Cloth

WHEN:

Friday, May 5th
Social Time 6:30 to 7:00pm
Ceremony Starts @ 7:00pm

WHERE:

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

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

Sault Tribe Traditional Medicine Program

2023 May Healers' Clinic Hours

Gerard Sagassige

May 1,2,8,9,15,16,22,23,30,31
Sault Ste. Marie Health Center
(906)632-0236
Lori Gambardella

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

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

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

Wednesday, May 24th
Munising Health Center
(906)387-4721 or
(800)236-4705

George Goggeleye

May 3,4,10,11,17,18,24,25,31
Sault Ste. Marie Health Center
(906)632-0236
Lori Gambardella

Friday, May 5th
Munising Health Center
(906)387-4721 or
(800)236-4705

Friday, May 19th
St. Ignace Health Center
(906)643-8689 or
(877)256-0135

Friday, May 26th
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

WAASKOONE GIIZIS - FLOWER MOON - MAY 2023

NIIZHWAASO GIIZHIGAT	NTAM GIIZHIGAT	NIIZHO GIIZHIGAT	NSWO GIIZHIGAT	NIIWO GIIZHIGAT	NAANO GIIZHIGAT	NGODWAASWO GIIZHIGAT
	1 bineshiinhag (birds)	2 jidamoozowan (yarrow)	3 miishkoonhsan (grass)	4 magakiinhsag (spring peepers)	5 Mooshkaneshin Dibiki Giizis (It is a full moon.)	6 wiikenh (sweetflag)
7 Gitige. (S/he is planting.)	8 gyaashk (seagull)	9 jijjaakook (sandhill cranes)	10 pakiinooon (blooming)	11 Zhishkiiaaboo (It is muddy.)	12 biipiige (nuthatch/ warbler)	13 kaadiginebik (salamander/ lizard)
14 Gashi Giizhigak (Mother's Day)	15 zhaashkwedoonan (mushrooms)	16 zigimeg (mosquitoes)	17 mooshkas (crane)	18 shki-niibiishan (new leaves)	19 zhiginaawshag (worms)	20 namebagoniin (trout lily)
21 ojii (house fly)	22 Aabowaa. (It is mild.) [as in weather]	23 zhiishiib (duck)	24 baapaase (woodpecker)	25 maang (loon)	26 ginii (wild rose)	27 mishiiminaatig (apple tree)
28 saskwaajmi'ag (leeches)	29 Makwenmagaazook Giizhigak (Memorial Day)	30 nka (Canadian goose)	31 Mino giizhigat. (It is a fine, sunny day.)			

ACFS hires direct services program director

By **BRENDA AUSTIN**

Megan Miller has accepted the Anishnaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS) Direct Services Program director position.

She said her initial priority is to get transitional housing shelter staff hired and onboard. "This is a ground-breaking initiative and I am thrilled to be a part of it," she said. "Our intention is that the shelter will follow a low-barrier, housing first model when possible. Emergency shelter as well case management services will be offered to the membership." The Transitional Shelter Program will be available in Chippewa County only.

Miller will be overseeing the

transitional housing shelter and existing ACFS Direct Assistance Programs such as General Assistance, Native Employment Works, Emergency Assistance, Funeral Assistance, LIHEAP Heating and CCDF Child Care Assistance. Direct Services are available in each of the seven counties in the tribe's service area.

Prior to accepting her current position with ACFS, Miller was a Direct Assistance case manager and worked daily with tribal membership to help them obtain services. "In my new position I will have the responsibility to ensure our programs continue to operate in a manner which presents the minimal amount of bur-



Megan Miller

den to our clients and meets all requirements of our funders and tribal leadership," she said. "As I've been working in the Direct Assistance Component of ACFS for the past 16-years, I would love to see all Direct Services

applications accessible and fillable online. A goal I've had for a while is for members to be able to submit their entire application and any attachments online and be able to follow the entire process online, including receiving a determination."

Miller said that when she began working for ACFS as a young adult in 1998 "I began my employment as a receptionist for ACFS. I then moved into a secretary position. I had a good understanding of the tribe's internal functions as well as the different components of ACFS," she said.

In 2002 she accepted the Child Care Coordinator position and in 2004 the Child Care Center was placed under the

Educational Division. "This gave me a different perspective of family dynamics and our community. I came back to ACFS in 2006 in the Direct Assistance case manager position and all facets of that position have prepared me to move into this new role of Direct Services program director," she said. "I am excited to begin this new journey and am incredibly thankful to all of the individuals who have mentored me along the way."

Miller lives in Sault Ste. Marie with her husband and son. "We spend a lot of time on Drummond Island, where we have family. I love to fish, kayak and love my Detroit Tigers baseball," she said.

April recognized as Child Abuse Prevention Month

From **ACFS**

April is nationally recognized as Child Abuse Prevention Month. It is observed to raise public awareness about child abuse and neglect. Child abuse and neglect often takes place in the home at the hands of a person the child knows well, and could include a parent, grandparent, babysitter, live together partner, or friend of the family. There are four major types of child maltreatment, and many times they occur concurrently. Each state and tribe is responsible for establishing its own definitions of child abuse and neglect that meet federal minimum standards. Most include the following:

- Neglect is failure to provide for a child's basic needs.
- Physical abuse is physical

injury as a result of hitting, kicking, shaking, burning, or otherwise harming a child.

- Sexual abuse is any situation where a child is used for sexual gratification. This may include indecent exposure, fondling, rape, or commercial exploitation.

- Emotional abuse is any pattern of behavior that impairs a child's emotional development of sense of self-worth, including constant criticism, threats, and rejection.

How can I help?

- Be a nurturing parent, children need to know that they are loved and capable.
- Parenting isn't easy, help a friend, neighbor, or relative when needed.
- Help yourself, take a break

when you need one.

- Get involved in your community to help meet the needs of children and families.

- Report suspected abuse or neglect.

Making a report of suspected abuse or neglect can often lead to getting parents and children the necessary services and assistance to improve their current circumstances, and ensure a safe environment for the entire family. Parenting is one of the hardest and most important jobs anyone can do. We all have a stake in ensuring parents have access to the support they need to be successful.

Children who are abused and neglected may suffer immediate physical injuries such as cuts, bruises, or broken bones. They may also have emotional and psychological problems, such as anxiety or posttraumatic stress. The impact of abuse is far greater than its immediate, visible

effects. Over the long term, children who are abused or neglected are also at increased risk for experiencing future violence, victimization, substance abuse, delayed brain development, lower educational attainment, and limited employment opportunities. Chronic abuse may result in toxic stress, which can change brain development and increase the risk for problems like posttraumatic stress disorder and learning, attention, and memory difficulties.

There are a number of family support programs offered through Anishnaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS) that are in place to assist children and families within the tribe's seven-county service area. The primary goal of these programs is to help parents of tribal children with a variety of resources and support to ensure that their children are safe, protected, and cared for. If you or someone

you know is interested in learning more about family support programs or requesting services offered through ACFS please call (800) 726-0093 or (906) 632-5250.

To report a case of suspected abuse or neglect of a child please contact the Michigan Department of Human Services Child Protective Services 24-hour intake hotline at (855) 444-3911 or ACFS at (800) 726-0093. All calls are confidential and reporting sources are protected by law.

Child Abuse Prevention Month is an opportunity to highlight the role we all can play to support parents and families.

We all share the responsibility to protect children from abuse and neglect.

They might seem like small steps, but your help is essential in order for children, families and communities to get the help they need, and start to heal.

Suicide is Preventable safeTalk training offered

Suicide is preventable. Anyone can make a difference. SafeTALK training is a half-day suicide alertness workshop for anyone over the age of 15, regardless of prior experience or training.

Thursday, April 20, 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

Big Bear Community Room
Space is limited—register today!

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jkillips2@saulttribe.net, or by calling (906) 635-6075.

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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.

Boat restrictions behind federal powerhouse

BY SCOTT BRAND

With an estimated \$400 million in construction work slated to take place this year, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will be closing access to recreational boaters and fishermen in the tailrace behind the federal hydro plant.

"Ninety percent of the construction traffic (in the form of boats, tugs and barges) will come from the Carbide Dock," explained Soo Locks Chief Mick Awbrey. "We need to close this to keep the general public safe."

The massive project will remove two older locks, the Davis and Sabin, in preparation for the

construction of a new lock. Once completed, the new lock will mirror the existing Poe Lock, completed in 1968, measuring 1,200 feet in length and 110 feet wide. The smaller MacArthur Lock will also continue to operate.

The Soo Locks were constructed to allow freighters access to and from Lake Superior bypassing the St. Mary's Rapids. This has historically been a great fishing spot known as Bahweting "Place on the Rapids" where whitefish could readily be caught.

Today, the area still has many whitefish, but they have been joined by planted species such as Atlantic salmon, pink salmon and

to a lesser extent chinook salmon, walleye and even the occasional lake trout. It remains a popular spot for boat anglers, but opportunities in the coming years will be severely limited until the new lock is complete.

The tailrace closure will run from the northern wall 898 feet downstream from the federal hydro plant to the southern wall 2,165 feet below. The southern wall will serve as the port for all work crews and equipment coming to the island. Awbrey anticipated there will be two 12-hour shifts, running six days a week throughout much of the upcoming construction season.

"Big blind spots for the tug and barge captains," said Awbrey of the difficulties posed by sharing those waters with smaller craft. "They can't react and maneuver quickly."

The potential problems are further fueled by the fast waters that pour through the narrow channel.

Project Manager Jeff Hartman of Kokosing Alberici and Traylor, the contractor doing the bulk of the work this summer, echoed those sentiments: "The current in this area makes it very challenging to maneuver precisely."

An exact closure date had not been set at the time of the March

15 meeting, but officials were looking at a window of roughly April into November.

"We will open it up at every available opportunity," said Awbrey identifying Sunday between the hours of 2 a.m. and 10 p.m. and some upcoming holidays where work crews would be off the water as potential open times.

To be added to the list for up-to-date Hydro Plant race closures contact Carrie Fox at carrie.d.fox@usace.army.mil or (906) 259-2841.

Signage will be installed on the north and south walls to alert recreational boaters of the closure.

Sault Tribe dedicates \$70,000 for public transportation

MACKINAC COUNTY — The Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians Transportation Department's Regional Tribal Transit Program dedicated \$70,000 in FTA Tribal Transit Funding to partner with Chippewa Luce Mackinac Community Action Agency (CLMCAA), to provide on-demand public transportation to residents of the City of St. Ignace and surrounding townships.

This new transit service has been critical in providing the public transportation, since public transit has not been offered in this community.

"I have heard from many in

the community that the service has been very well received and supported," said Transportation Planner Wendy Hoffman who has managed Transportation programs for the Sault Tribe over the last 12 years.

To request a ride in the St. Ignace area between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday call the dispatch office at (906) 643-6746.

The service does not run on Saturday or Sunday and is unavailable for most holidays.

The cost is \$4 for the general public and \$2 for seniors and disabled individuals.

All vehicles are handicapped

accessible. The Regional Tribal Transit Program also partners with Delta Area Transit Authority (DATA) on the western end of the service area, the Schoolcraft County

Transit Authority (SCTA) in the Manistique Area, and the Eastern Upper Peninsula Transit Authority (EUPTA).

"It's been very popular," said Mobility Coordinator Loriann

Fabry. "It is something the community and tribal leadership support," Fabry concluded, "and we hope to continue into the foreseeable future."

"The Art of Healing" painting event

APRIL 15, 2023, 12 - 4 P.M.
 NIIGAANAGIIZHIK CEREMONIAL BUILDING
 April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Join the Advocacy Resource Center at this community event hosted for all those impacted by sexual violence.

"The Art of Healing" is centered around healing through the creative process of painting. Being creative can help us interpret, express, and resolve our emotions and thoughts. You do not need to consider yourself

artistic to benefit. The first 75 participants to show up on the day of the event will be guaranteed supplies. Questions? Please contact Cultural Healing Educator Grey Shea at AShea1@saulttribe.net or (906) 632-1808 during business hours (8 a.m.- 5p.m. Monday through Friday). Bring your own lunch - light snacks will be provided. In the event of a funeral or ceremony at Niigaanagiizhik, a backup location will be announced at a later date.



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Firekeeper's Daughter chosen as 2023-24 Great Michigan Read

Boulley's second YA thriller 'Warrior Girl Unearthed' set to release in May

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

New York Times number one young adult bestselling thriller, *Firekeeper's Daughter* by Sault Tribe member Angeline Boulley, has been selected as the Michigan Humanities' 2023-24 Great Michigan Read.

Seven statewide selection committees chose the title from hundreds of potential works.

President and CEO of Michigan Humanities Jennifer Rupp, said The Great Michigan Read focuses on books based in Michigan. Rupp said she is pleased to

share *Firekeeper's Daughter* with the entire state in the upcoming year. "We are certain that *Firekeeper's Daughter* will be used as a tool to engage in conversations, learn more about Michigan's many tribal groups, as well as be an enjoyable read for any fiction fan."

Organizations and groups can register online to receive free materials, including copies of the book, large print copies, reader's guides, teacher's guides, bookmarks and promotional materials. Audiobook and E-book

versions will be available for free download at ReadMichigan.org for anyone with a Michigan IP address in the fall of 2023 and spring of 2024.

Schools, libraries, colleges, arts and cultural institutions, books clubs and more are encouraged to register.

Materials will be shipped starting in September. Beginning in July, nonprofits registered with the Great Michigan Read program are eligible for up to \$750 in grant funding to support programming efforts with *Firekeeper's Daughter*.

Boulley will tour Michigan in the fall of 2023 and spring of 2024 discussing the book, its themes, and her new book, *Warrior Girl Unearthed* — set for a May release — during her tour. In her yet-to-be-released book, 16-year-old Perry Firekeeper-Birch has every intention of quitting her internship. Being stuck in a museum was not a part of her summer plans, but no-nonsense Aunt Daunis had

other ideas. When Perry meets "Warrior Girl," a Native American ancestor whose bones are locked away in the local university's archives, her rebellious spark becomes a righteous blaze. She will do whatever it takes to bring "Warrior Girl" home where she belongs.

To register to become a partner and receive free materials, or to learn more about the Great Michigan Read, visit www.michiganhumanities.org/great-michigan-read.

Boulley has been presented with numerous awards for *Firekeeper's Daughter*, including: The

2022 Printz Award for a book that exemplifies literary excellence in young adult literature; the 2022 YALSA Morris Award — given every year adult literature by a first-time author writing for teens; the 2022 Walter Award, Teen Category — for Outstanding Children's Literature; the 2022 American Indian Youth Literature Award — Awarded biennially, the AIYLA identifies and honors the very best writing and illustrations by Native Americans and Indigenous peoples of North America; and the 2022 Josette Frank Award from Bank Street College Children's Book Committee.

ANGELINE BOULLEY

"BOULLEY HAS DELIVERED A MASTERPIECE OF INDIGENOUS LITERATURE."

—ERIN TRIPP, LINGIT, @ERINS_LIBRARY

"THIS NOVEL SHOWCASES THE POWER OF INDIGENOUS RESILIENCE IN THE WAKE OF GRIEF."

—DANIELLE BOULETTE, QUIRKY FROM ODS CREEK, FIRST NATION, THUNDERBIRDWOMANREADS

"ANGELINE BOULLEY BRINGS YA TO THE REZ IN THIS UNFORGETTABLE THRILLER."

—MALLOTT WHITEHOUSE, MEMBER OF KITIGAN ZIBI ANISHINABEK, @NATIVEGIRLSREADING

THIS GROUNDBREAKING DEBUT ASKS HOW FAR ONE UNENROLLED TRIBAL MEMBER WILL GO TO PROTECT HER COMMUNITY IF IT MEANS TEARING APART THE ONLY WORLD SHE'S EVER KNOWN.

ANGELINE BOULLEY, an enrolled member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, is a storyteller who writes about her Ojibwe community in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. She is a former Director of the Office of Indian Education at the U.S. Department of Education. Angeline lives in southwest Michigan, but her home will always be on Sugar Island. *Firekeeper's Daughter* is her debut novel.

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OPEN POSITIONS

Do you have an interest working in an educational setting or looking to build your career in the field of education? JKL School is accepting applications for qualified candidates for the 2022-2023 school year. JKL School offers a benefit package that includes:

- ◆ Michigan Public School Retirement System – Pension and 401(k) offered
- ◆ BC/BS Health Insurance – 80% employer paid premium which includes Health, Vision, Dental, and Prescription
- ◆ Life Insurance – Employer paid
- ◆ Long-term and short-term disability
- ◆ Optional life insurance
- ◆ PTO and sick time

Superintendent (1) - Doctorate Degree in Education and Valid School Administrator Certificate

Middle School Teacher (1) - Valid Teaching Certificate and Special endorsements may be required depending on grade, subject, or specialty area.

Elementary School Teacher (Multiple) - Valid Teaching Certificate and Special endorsements may be required depending on grade, subject, or specialty area.

Special Education Teacher (Multiple) - Valid Michigan Special Education Teaching Certificate. Patience, tolerance, and ability to work under stressful conditions.

Special Education Paraprofessional (1) - Minimum 60 College/University credits or passing of Work Keys/ETS. Must have high degree of patience and tolerance and flexibility.

School Social Worker (1) - Master's degree from a graduate school social work program approved by the Michigan Department of education. Must have current or be eligible for state approval as a school social worker.

Anishinaabemowin Language and Culture Teacher (1) - Completion of, or enrollment in, Anishinaabe language program.

Ojibwe Culture and Language Teacher (1) - Bachelor's Degree, Valid Michigan Teaching Certificate or Permit, and Experience in the instruction of tribal history.

Playground Assistant (1) - Must demonstrate a strong desire to help children. Must hold and maintain current CPI certification in verbal de-escalation and physical restraint (training provided by the school district).

Applications can be found at www.jklschool.org by clicking on the employment opportunities link on the home page. JKL application package must include electronic versions of the following: application, letter of interest, current resume, copy of Michigan Certification, Transcripts, and MTTC results if applicable. Only electronically filed applications that are complete with all required documentation attached will be considered. Positions are open until filled. Employment at JKL is considered "at-will." JKL is an equal opportunity employer.

Design Project Center students win American Advertising Federation Gold ADDY Award

Sault Tribe member takes leadership role

BIG RAPIDS, Mich. — Ferris State University's Design Project Center students have learned that their work on behalf of Ferris Outfitters won a Gold ADDY award from the American Advertising Federation-West Michigan.

Alison Popp, an associate professor of Design, said the four-person student team topped the field in the Student Integrated Identity Brand category.

"A full brand guide was produced for Ferris Outfitters, which is a university-run outlet

replacing retail chain operations previously occupying that space in the David L. Eisler Center," Popp said. "This is a facility that speaks to our students and alumni, and Design Project Center teams receive a great opportunity in experiential learning with each assignment."

Sault Tribe member Rilee Greene, of Sault Ste. Marie, rose into a leadership role with her project team during the two semesters of Design Project Cen-

See "Award," page 11

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Design Project Center students win Gold ADDY Award

From "Award," page 10

ter involvement. Greene focused on setting a timeline for accomplishing the objectives in brand development.

"Starting from scratch on a retail brand is difficult. Adding the Bulldog Service Center operation to that effort was an interesting experience," Greene said.

"There were diverse elements to address, and each one needed to line up with our branding. But, at the end of our experience in the Design Project Center, we all felt we had done that work successfully."

Greene is a graphic design coordinator with the Bissell Pet Foundation in Walker. She noted that hearing about the entry's Gold ADDY from AAF-West Michigan gave her a great feeling.

"It is a real boost to my confidence since we had difficult decisions over two semesters,"



Greene said. "Being able to create branding that professionals in the industry found to be excellent makes us so proud of the local award and gives us hope for more success in the AAF regional competition."

Popp said Ferris has offered the Design Project Center course for nearly 30 years. She noted that while an award-winning entry is significant, the participation and collaboration benefits are a constant for this College of Business program.

"Time after time, I hear from industry professionals and our alumni that the Design Project Center experience allowed them to hit the ground running," Popp said. "We are proud to offer learning that strives for excellence and significantly contributes to the industry."

The local AAF, or AdFed West Michigan, held its ADDYS event March 2, in Grand Rapids.



Sault Tribe member Rilee Greene (above), of Sault Ste. Marie, rose into a leadership role with her project team during the two semesters of Design Project Center involvement. Greene focused on setting a timeline for accomplishing the objectives in brand development. Greene is a graphic design coordinator with the Bissell Pet Foundation in Walker.

Pink Man wins 2023 Diverse Voices Playwriting Initiative

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Sault Tribe member Marty Strenczewilk's play *Pink Man, or, The Only Indian in the Room*, has been selected by the Crossroads Project as the winner of the 2023 Diverse Voices Playwriting Initiative, a new play development program for Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) playwrights organized by Illinois State University School of Theatre and Dance. Strenczewilk was on campus mid-April for a workshop residency that culminated in an in-person staged reading, directed by Dr. Shannon Epplett (also a Sault Tribe member), on April 14.

Pink Man is a semi-autobiographical journey of an American Indian about self-discovery as he battles tradition, stereotypes, and himself. "I am a storyteller at heart. It's in my blood and I expect that I'll always be telling stories,"



Marty Strenczewilk

Strenczewilk said. "As a Native kid growing up, I never saw people like me on screen or on stage, just gross exaggerations of us. I write and tell stories so the kid like me growing up now can come to love the theatre like I do while feeling included — feeling that their sto-

ries are worth telling."

According to the university's press release, the main character in *Pink Man* finds himself forced to live in the pink because being red is terrifying, but being white feels fraudulent. After a mysterious cafe owner takes special interest in him, he finds himself revisiting his formative years, where he grapples with expectations, self-doubt, and acceptance from other Native Americans.

Marty Strenczewilk's theatre credits include co-founding a New York City-based theatre company and appearances in off-Broadway productions, such as *Tony & Tina's Wedding*, along with performing in

the first staged production of Kurt Vonnegut's *Cat's Cradle* in New York City. Strenczewilk also writes and performs slam poetry across New York City.

Strenczewilk holds an undergraduate degree in theatre from SUNY Buffalo that he received in 2001. After graduating he moved to NYC where he performed slam poetry pieces that he wrote, while also writing short musicals and plays for festivals and creating songs with his musician friends. It wasn't until three years ago that he fully dove into playwriting as his main creative outlet, focusing on full length plays.

"Live theatre fulfills me in a

way that no other artistic medium ever has," he said. "The nature of the show being slightly different every night; the feel of being in the room as people are speaking; the process of developing a new piece with collaboration; the type of artistic expression that works on stage but doesn't work on screen — all of those things are a big part of why I love writing for the stage."

He also studied at The Barrow Group under Arlene Hutton (who is an accomplished off-Broadway playwright).

Strenczewilk currently lives in Boulder, Colo., and is married with three kids.



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Sault Tribe Law Enforcement & Conservation

BY ROBERT MARCHAND, CHIEF OF POLICE

Sault Tribe Law Enforcement (STLE) issues treaty hunting and fishing licenses to Sault Tribe members to be utilized within the boundaries of the 1836 Treaty Area. If members have any questions regarding these licenses, the criteria for obtaining them, and/or the regulations governing their use, please contact our office at (906) 635-6065.



Inland Hunting, Fishing, and Gathering

STLE began issuing 2023 licenses March 1, 2023. Please remember that if you held a license in 2022, regardless of activity, you are required to turn in a harvest report. If you did not get out to hunt, fish, or gather, there is a check box on the front page of the report, just complete the information on that page and check this box.

During the 2022 licensing year, STLE received numerous calls regarding the state of Michigan's deer hunting requirement. The state mandated that their hunters report their deer harvest within 72 hours. STLE would like to remind all Sault Tribe license holders that, when you hold Sault Tribe's licenses, you follow Sault Tribe's rules, Chapter 21 and 23 govern Inland Hunting, Fishing, and Gathering. We appreciate that members contacted STLE for clarification on this. Please remember that just because the state changes a regulation, it does not automatically mean Sault Tribe has. The Sault Tribe Board of Directors is the governing body that approves and amends tribal law, including Chapters 21 and 23.

The bear and elk lottery applications are included in this edition of the newspaper; as a reminder, the application period is May 1- 31, any applications received after May 31 at 5 p.m. will not be processed. There is a \$4 application processing fee per application; however, if you are 60 and above, or 16 and under, you are not required to pay this fee. Lottery drawings typically take place at the first Conservation Committee meeting held in June. If you apply and are drawn for either bear or elk, please remember that you are required to obtain your current year's hunting licenses prior to STLE distributing your bear or elk tag.

Sault Tribe's small game season will be ending March 31, 2023. This is also when your 2022 harvest cards expire. If you plan to participate in the 2023 Spring Turkey season, which runs from April 15 through June 15, you will want to renew your harvest licenses in March or April. In Spring Turkey season, you are authorized to take two bearded turkeys only.

If you have never held an Inland Harvest license with Sault Tribe, you are required to provide a copy of your tribal card along with proof of hunter safety if you want to engage in treaty hunting rights. STLE does administer a Youth Mentoring

program that members under the age of 10 are able to participate in for a maximum period of two years; please note, however, that once the youth turn 10, they are no longer eligible for this program and will be required to provide proof of hunter safety. STLE recommends that they begin participation at 8 years of age so there is no lapse in licensing. Please contact our office for more information as there are other requirements to participate.

Chapter 21 of the Tribal Code regulates Inland licenses. Please remember that if you are using this license for fishing purposes, you are only authorized to fish inland lakes and streams within the boundaries of the 1836 Treaty Area. There are some exceptions on specific bodies of water that you can find more information about in Tribal Code. All tribal codes may be found online at saulttribe.com, select Government at the top, select tribal code from the drop-down list and choose Chapter 21 for Inland rules and regulations.

Great Lakes Fishing – Subsistence/Netting and Commercial

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

If you hold a subsistence license or subsistence and netting licenses, please remember that you are required to turn in a monthly catch report by the 10th of each month. These reports are required whether you catch any fish or get out to fish. If you fax in your reports, please make sure to call STLE about 10-15 minutes after you faxed it to ensure we received it. Please remember that these licenses are valid only on the Great Lakes within the boundaries of Sault Tribe's 1836 Treaty Area. Chapter 20 of the Tribal Code and CORA Code regulate both subsistence and netting licenses. Both sets of regulations may be found online at saulttribe.com, select Government at the top, select tribal code from the drop-down list, and choose either Chapter 20 or CORA code for Great Lakes rules and regulations.

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

Members are encouraged to educate themselves on the various rules governing our treaty rights; however, STLE is here to help members wade through the sometimes complex rules. If you cannot find the information you are looking for in Tribal Code or CORA Code, please contact our office, (906) 635-6065, and ask to speak with a conservation officer.



Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians 2023 Bear Application

The 2023 bear application period will run from May 1, 2023 to May 31, 2023. All applications must be received by Sault Tribe Law Enforcement before 5:00 pm on May 31, 2023. Applications received after 5:00 pm on May 31, 2023 will NOT be accepted. A lottery will be held at the June Conservation Committee Meeting. Tribal members MUST possess an Inland Hunting Harvest license and be at least 10 years of age to hunt bear.

Name: _____
Last First Middle

Mailing Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Male Tribal File #: _____ STS #: _____

Female Date of Birth: _____ Phone #: _____

Email Address: _____

Please select only ONE of the following Bear Management Units (BMU). Please note that all Sault Tribe bear permits are only valid within the 1836 Ceded Territory. Please see the map below for generalized boundaries of each BMU.

Upper Peninsula

- Drummond
- Baraga
- Gwinn
- Newberry

Lower Peninsula

- Baldwin
- Gladwin
- Red Oak



There is a \$4 application fee for each application. Each application must be accompanied by a check or money order (you may write one check for multiple applications). Checks and money orders can be made out to "Sault Tribe". Sault Tribe Elders (60 & older) and youth (10-16) are not required to pay application fees.

Please send all bear and elk applications to:
Sault Tribe Law Enforcement
Bear & Elk Applications P.O. Box 925 Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

For any questions, please contact Sault Tribe Natural Resource Department at 906-632-6132.

STLE Office Use ONLY

- Elder
- Youth

Pymt Method: _____ Date: _____



Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians 2023 Elk Application

The 2023 elk application period will run from May 1, 2023 to May 31, 2023. All applications must be received by Sault Tribe Law Enforcement before 5:00 pm on May 31, 2023. Applications received after 5:00 pm on May 31, 2023 will NOT be accepted. A lottery will be conducted at the June Conservation Committee Meeting. Tribal members MUST possess an Inland Hunting Harvest license and be at least 10 years of age to hunt bear and elk.

Name: _____
Last First Middle

Mailing Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Male Tribal File #: _____ STS #: _____

Female Date of Birth: _____ Phone #: _____

Email Address: _____

There is a \$4 application fee for each application. Each application must be accompanied by a check or money order (you may write one check for multiple applications). Checks and money orders can be made out to "Sault Tribe". Sault Tribe Elders (60 & older) and youth (10-16) are not required to pay application fees.

Please send all bear and elk applications to:

Sault Tribe Law Enforcement
Bear & Elk Applications
P.O. Box 925
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

For any questions, please contact Sault Tribe Natural Resource Department at 906-632-6132.

STLE Office Use ONLY

- Elder
- Youth

Pymt Method: _____

Date: _____

Tribal biologist receives MSU diversity award

Eric Clark, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., received the Michigan State University (MSU) College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR) Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Alumni Award at the March 10 ANR Awards Program.

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Alumni Award recognizes alumni for their professional accomplishments, service and contributions in the areas of diversity, equity and inclusion to the CANR, their field and community.

“I feel I have been given a lot more than I have given back,”

Clark said in a recent interview. He is happy to see tribal members in positions of important decision-making roles, and the emergence of community knowledge only the Indigenous people understand, he added.

An MSU alumnus, Clark began to focus his service to MSU in 2015 when he sought a mechanism for early career tribal students and workers to earn their graduate degrees.

As director of the Sault Tribe Wildlife Program, Clark routinely engaged with and employed tribal individuals interested in wildlife. He reached out to the

MSU Department of Fisheries and Wildlife to establish a partnership.

After an initial tribal student enrolled in MSU’s fisheries and wildlife program and successfully completed their master’s degree (and was subsequently hired as Sault Tribe’s Fisheries manager), Clark expressed interest in providing more structure to a program that would explicitly focus on making experiences for tribal students interested in natural resources. Working with Gary Roloff, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife chair, they collectively developed

the Center for Cooperative Ecological Resilience (CCER). The center’s mission is to provide tribal capacity building through education, experimentation, and analytics to sustain ecological systems in the upper Great Lakes.

Clark’s efforts culminated in an MOU between the Sault Tribe and MSU that officially established the CCER. Since 2015 and through Clark’s cooperation with the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, the department has hosted four tribal graduate students, brought in \$500,000 in grant support for the program,

hired a Native American faculty to assist with a wild rice project, and recently hired a postdoc to assist with mentoring students and analyzing data. Other tribes in Michigan have expressed interest in working through CCER, positioning the center to have regional impacts and to help advance the careers of early career Native Americans.

Clark earned a Master’s degree from the MSU Department of Community, Agriculture, Recreation and Resource Studies, now the Department of Community Sustainability.



Submitted by Sault Tribe Wildlife Dept. Counterclockwise from top left — Sault Tribe Wildlife takes tribal members on prescribed fire tour; pine marten; Lead Wildlife Biologist Eric Clark working with snowshoe hare; St. Marys River after treatment; Biboon (winter) gathering with community, Biologist Dani Fegan with snowshoe hare; summer interns collar a snowshoe hare; and Biologist Randy Aikens with recovering snowshoe hare, assisted by an intern.



JKL Bahweting students visit Sugar Island to collect and boil sap for maple syrup production

By SCOTT BRAND
 SUGAR ISLAND — The Mary Murray Culture Camp has seen a busy winter season with approximately 200 visitors by the second day in April and another 100 or so scheduled to arrive before the harvest comes to a close. "We have to have very specific weather conditions," explained Cultural Activities Coordinator Tyler Bouschor as approximately 50 students from JKL Bahweting School visited on an April 3 field trip. "The sap doesn't run until it (the outside temperature) gets about 35 degrees." The conditions were nearly ideal, despite the 18 plus inches of snow that had hit the Eastern Upper Peninsula on April Fool's Day. The two buses arrived under partially

sunny skies, relatively calm winds and temperatures flirting with the 40 degree mark. The snow did provide mobility limitations to those wearing Crocs and sneakers, but others brought their boots or were willing to don a pair of borrowed snowshoes and proved capable of traversing the grounds with only the occasional stumble. Bouschor said in mid-March he was joined by Geezhik McCoy and Tom Rapson in tapping the first 85 trees of the season. In the weeks that followed, visiting students helped to tap dozens more. Bouschor calculated that 3.25 gallons of maple syrup had already been produced and he was hoping the weather would allow them to get the final harvest up to five gallons.

It takes approximately 21 gallons of sap to make one gallon of maple syrup and the students played an integral part in the process. While a portion of the group in attendance were going from tree to tree, and carrying buckets, the other half were in the special structure tending a fire that was boiling the freshly-harvested sap down. Bouschor added that some of the maple syrup could be made into maple sugar with additional cooking and treatment. The collected syrup will be distributed for ceremonies and gifts for upcoming events throughout the year. The Sault Area Schools and Rudyard Area Schools also had scheduled visits as part of the 2023 maple syrup harvest.



The collection bags were filled to the brim under ideal conditions, while high snowpiles were a challenge in the wake of the April Fool's Day Blizzard.



Cultural Activities Director Tyler Bouschor welcomes two busloads of students from JKL Bahweting School to the Mary Murray Cultural Camp.



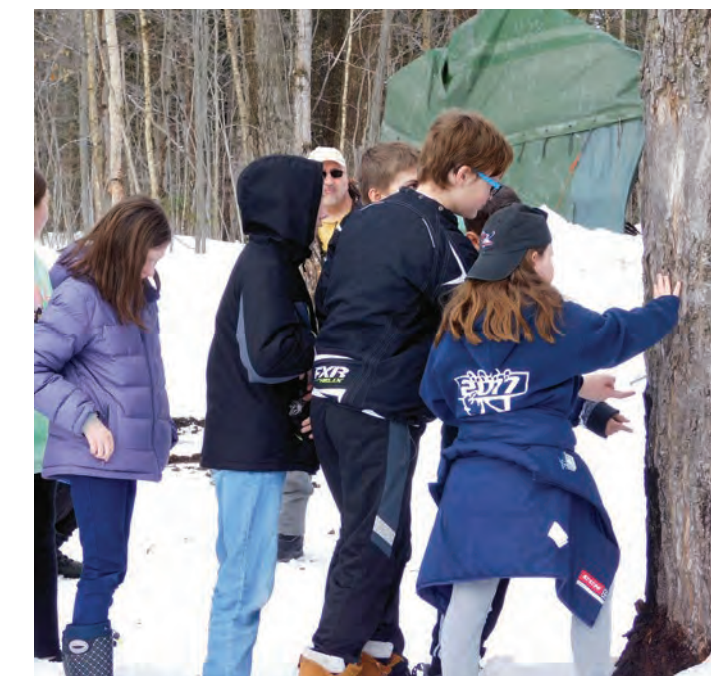
Bouschor and Geezhik McCoy will host approximately 300 visitors this season teaching them the ins and outs of maple syrup harvesting on Sugar Island.



Clockwise, students take to the woods, snow covered the picnic tables as buckets were utilized to haul the precious sap, two snowshoe clad collectors return to the parking lot.



Snowshoes provided a bit of a challenge as students learned how to put on their new footwear before departing.



Tasting fresh sap from the tree proved to be a popular activity.



Left, the sugar shack provided not only an educational experience, but some warmth for the visiting students. Above, it also served as a place for story telling while waiting for the fire to turn the sap to syrup. Top right, the smoky fire provided the heat required for the transformation process as it takes more than 20 gallons of sap to produce one gallon of maple syrup. Bottom right, a wise lumberjack buried the head of this axe into a chopping block so it could be retrieved when needed. A greenhorn, one could surmise, might have left it on the ground where it would remain hidden until spring.



From page 7, "Landback," in the past, present and future

agement for us all. Indigenous peoples around the world become stronger through connection. Our ancestors understood the value of relationships and were always forming new family and community connections, expanding our kinship. Our communities grow stronger as we build kinship, learn from our neighbors, and nurture what Anishinaabe author Leanne Betasamosake Simpson calls "constellations of co-resistance." Powerful constellations can be created across the imaginary US-CAN border, across different Anishinaabe communities, and even across families within our own tribe. They can also be created across movements, like when Black Lives Matter organizers support Landback and vice-versa.

Landback Past and Present

Landback efforts have taken many different forms, including land occupations like Alcatraz (1969-1971), Raglan (1975-1982), Oka (1990), and Standing Rock (2016-2017). The work has taken other forms including blockades, land claims, and re-purchasing lands that were stolen from us. Our treaty rights battles are another crucial part of Landback. These fights remind our colonizer neighbors that they can't stop us from nurturing relationships with our homelands.

We are in a new chapter of this ongoing struggle with unique challenges and opportunities. What's different about the movement now that it has the Landback moniker and hashtag? And where is it taking the Anishinaabek and other



Above, Anishinaabe-Kanaka Maole knowledge exchange at Hale O Kūhiō occupation site on Mauna Kea, Hawai'i. Below, Nick Reo (top left) with Anishinaabe, Cree, and Māori kin in Whāingaroa (Raglan), Aotearoa New Zealand during production of a forthcoming documentary directed by Reo about Māori relationships to the sea.



Native peoples? One difference is the immediate and expansive nature of our social connections. For decades, Indians have expertly used social media to connect with other Native folks near and far. We are more connected virtually and

physically than at any other time in human history. We can make new connections in an instant that span continents and cultures.

These connections allow communities to learn from each other and inspire one another.

They help us navigate obstacles, uplift Indigenous knowledges, and inspire action. The connections are a way to stand with other movements and have each other's backs. For example, even if we can't make it to Mauna Kea (a sacred mountain in Hawai'i threatened by astronomic research infrastructure), we can use virtual connections to support Kanaka Maoli (Indigenous Hawaiians) and learn from their experiences. When our kin across the river hold a demonstration or simply host a social gathering, thanks to social media we are more likely to hear about it and show up.

Landback Futures

All these connections make us stronger, and the vision I described earlier tells me that leaning into them (not just on social media) in the coming years will make a big difference. We need to build and nurture Indigenous connections near and far, including with our kin across the river and throughout the region. Our elected leaders work to make nation-to-nation connections on behalf of our people. Building nation-to-nation connections is a crucial practice, but it's not the same as making kin. We expand our kinship networks at the grassroots level through interpersonal and inter-family relationships.

We need these grassroots connections perhaps now more than ever. We need to learn from one another, help raise each other's children, feed one another, and pool resources. These are Anishinaabek ways of doing

things, so I'm suggesting that more of us need to more thoroughly be ourselves culturally and socially. Anishinaabe ways of doing things needs to be re-normalized within our homelands, including speaking our language, practicing our cultural protocols, and living our communal values.

Those of us who don't speak our language or know cultural and social norms shouldn't be ashamed. It's not our fault if we weren't taught these things, but it is our responsibility to seek out our Anishinaabe knowledge. We should aspire to freely engage in our Anishinaabek practices and to "live our culture" across our territories without question, permission, or need for explanation.

We have lots of work to do to repair Mother Earth and restore our rightful place within our homelands. Those who came before us have helped generate cracks, creating small openings for us living Anishinaabek to all be leaders in this work. Your uncles and aunties are ready to give guidance when you need it. If you want to seek out our Anishinaabe knowledge, if you want to learn our language, we are here to support you. If you're trying to live your clan responsibilities and express the unique gifts Creator baked into your being, we're here to support you.

I'll close by telling you what Sheridan Waitai (Ngati Kuri) tells her Māori nieces and nephews regarding Landback: "Start acting like you own it."

Federal changes will affect Medicaid coverage.

Michigan Medicaid members: Federal changes could affect your program benefits and coverage.

Learn what the changes are and what they mean for you. Visit Michigan.gov/2023benefitchanges.

Walking on...

FREDERICK VERN EVELEIGH

Frederick Vern Eveleigh, 74, of Rudyard, Mich. passed away on Friday, March 17, 2023. Frederick was born on Feb. 25, 1949, in Holland, Mich. to the late Robert Verne and Edna Elizabeth (Williams) Eveleigh. He was a graduate of Alma College with his B.A. in Business Administration with the class of 1972. He was a member of the TKE Fraternity. He also played for the Alma College Football Team. Frederick was a proud member of the Eagle Scouts, Troop 34. He was an avid reader, but his big love was his family and his dogs. He enjoyed college sports (MSU), gardening, grilling, and camping. He was a skilled carpenter and spent most of his career as the owner and operator of Northeast Carpentry.



Frederick is survived by his wife Linda Hope (Hendren) Eveleigh, whom he married on Nov. 30, 1985 in Redford, Mich.; children Stephanie (Jeff) McClintock of Flushing, Mich., Susan Stefanko of West Bloomfield, Mich., Stacey (Zach) Johns of Davison, Mich., Samantha (Dave) Lambeth of Novi, Mich., Sara (Aaron) Litzner of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., Lauren (Travis) Kross of Trout Lake, Mich. and his best friend Murphy (his golden retriever); 10 grandchildren: Kieran, Dillon, Eamon, Chandler, Aiden, Gabe, Beau, Reid, Brooke, and Wade; Frederick is also survived by his siblings Dave (Mary) Eveleigh of Charlevoix, Mich., Randy Eveleigh of Oakland, Calif., Patti (Dennis) Heikkinen of Woodbine, Ga., and Steve (Cindy) Eveleigh of Traverse City, Mich. and his Aunts; Kathleen Poirier of Sault Ste. Marie, and Donna (Jim) Stevenson of Pickford, Mich. and several cousins, nieces and nephews.

Frederick was preceded in death by his parents and brother Jerry Eveleigh of Cadillac, Mich. A memorial service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his memory to the Rudyard Sports Boosters Club c/o Rudyard Area Schools, 11185 West 2nd Street Rudyard, MI 49780. Condolence may be left online at www.csmulder.com.

BARBARA GOLDIE EDGAR

Longtime Newberry, Mich. resident, Barbara Goldie Edgar, 92, died Saturday morning March 11, 2023 at Medilodge-Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. Born Oct. 30, 1930 in St. Ignace, Mich. daughter of the late Alsem and Goldie (Varnes) Archambeau, Barb attended Newberry High School.



Barb was employed in the meat department at the A & P for

several years until it's closure in 1979 and continued at Rahilly's IGA until her retirement in the early 1990s.

Barb was a proud member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and loved spending time with her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, Barb is preceded in death by her husband Coral, son and daughter-in-law David (Carol) Edgar, grandson Justin Holbrook, granddaughters Heidi Kerridge and Belinda Crooks, siblings Lucille Glenn, Kathleen Kujala, Delphine Archambeau and Raymond Archambeau.

Survivors include her children Patti Payton of Escanaba, Bob (Sandy) Edgar of Kingsford, Peggy (Rick) Kerridge of Newberry, Diane (Tom) Lindsay of Newberry, Mary (Gene) Holbrook of Newberry and Steve Edgar of Sault Ste. Marie; 30 grandchildren, 48 great-grandchildren and six great-great-grandchildren; siblings Laura Drefs of Newberry, Veronica Ross of Newberry and Carl (Mary) Archambeau of Grand Ledge, Mich.; sister-in-law Lois Cronk of Cedar Springs, Mich.; numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Per request, cremation services were accorded. Graveside services will be held Saturday June 17, 2023 at 11 a.m. at the Forest Home Cemetery in Newberry with Randall Griffis presiding.

The family of Barb Edgar extends their sincere gratitude to Robin and the staff at Robin's Nest AFC Home for the care they provided and loving Barb as one of their family.

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

MARGARET M. DUNBAR

Margaret M. Dunbar, "Maggie", 94, of Onaway, Mich. died at Aspen Ridge Retirement Village in Gaylord, Mich. on Wednesday, March 1, 2023.



Visitation was held at Chagnon Funeral Home on March 9, 2023 with Elder Thelma Curtis officiating. Maggie's final resting place will be at Waverly Township Cemetery in Onaway.

Those planning an expression of sympathy please consider a donation in memory of Maggie to the Onaway Ambulance Equipment Fund.

The daughter of Ernest and Bertha (Dumas) Dennis, Maggie was born in St. Ignace, Mich. on Dec. 1, 1928, and was raised in Onaway. She graduated from Onaway High School in 1946 and not long after, married the love of her life, John E. Dunbar on Jan. 24, 1947, in Toledo, Ohio. Their first home was in Texas at Fort Hood where John was stationed with the Army. With John's career in the military, the Dunbar's moved frequent-

ly. Over the next 20 years they would live in Kansas, Georgia, Missouri, California, France, and Germany. Being an Army wife, Maggie was without John while he served in Korea and again when he volunteered for Vietnam. In 1967, Maggie returned home to Onaway while her husband finished the last of his Army career in Vietnam before he retired and joined her back at home.

Upon her return to Northern Michigan Maggie took a job working at Lou Maxon's Lodge on Black Lake which would eventually become the UAW Education Center. One of the originals, Maggie would work at the front desk of The Center until her retirement on Dec. 31, 1989. Her job suited her well as she was welcoming, friendly, and enjoyed chatting with everyone. During her career at Black Lake, friendships were forged that would last a lifetime. Every Friday she had lunch with her besties, a tradition that would continue long into retirement. For 49 years, the gal pals kept their lunch date. They exchanged the latest books they had read, rehashed the Alpena News crossword puzzle, and had a good visit each week.

Quite crafty, Maggie enjoyed embroidery, cross stitch, macrame, and rug hooking. She made her home and yard beautiful with her lovely flower gardens full of colorful blooms. She was an avid reader and a writer as well, regularly journaling her thoughts.

She and John loved to travel; they toured the United States in their motor home visiting the west coast, Washington State, and Texas. They visited family and friends, made the Lake Michigan and the Lake Huron Circle Tour, and spent winters in Gulf Shores, Ala. Maggie loved walking the beaches at Gulf Shores, collecting seashells, and watching the dolphins.

An elder in the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Maggie was very proud of her Native American heritage. With her love of family and great respect of past generations, she visited family graves in St. Ignace each spring to plant flowers. She was a devoted wife and a wonderful mother who raised her sons to

be gentlemen. She was loving yet stern with her boys. They didn't get away with much under her watchful eye.

Maggie had a delightful twinkle in her eye, a smile that would light up a room, and a laugh that was contagious. With her outgoing personality, she had many friends and loved meeting new people. She was a lovely lady, both gentle and feisty, sweet and sassy. Fiercely independent and a tad stubborn, Maggie never wanted to be a bother to anyone, including her sons. But much like their mother, her sons kept a watchful eye on her, making sure she had whatever she needed.

Maggie will be missed by her sons, Anthony "Tony" (Sandra) Dunbar of South Carolina and Rick (Angela) Dunbar of Cheboygan; daughter-in-law, Ellen Dunbar of Alpena; grandchildren, Traci (Mike), Mark (Carol) Walker, Shawn (Lisa) Walker, Vivien Ross, Spencer Ross, and Mitchell Ross; as well as many great grandchildren and several great, great grandchildren. Maggie also leaves nephews and nieces, including Penny Treadway and Kelly Darga whom she was very close with and her wonderful friend, Carol Smrcek of Rogers City.

Preceding Maggie in death was her husband, John; son and daughter-in-law, John and Paula Dunbar; grandsons, Anthony Dunbar and Steve Walker; brother and sister-in-law, John and Libby Dennis; sisters, Thora Bannon and Kathleen Kowalski; and a niece, Cheryl Dean.

CAROL ANN (PAYMENT) BENNER

Carol Ann (Payment) Benner, 65, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., passed away peacefully on Thursday, March 23, 2023, at Munson Hospice House in Traverse City, Mich., in the presence of her loving family.



Carol was born on Sept. 29, 1957, in Sault Ste. Marie

to Urban "Pogie" and Melva (LaPointe) Payment.

She is preceded in death by both parents, a brother Larry Payment, and a son-in-law Casey Kleman. Carol spent many years working for Kewadin Casino and the Sault Tribe, but eventually took on a new career path taking care of the mentally challenged and nurse aide work. Carol truly lived life to the fullest through simple pleasure, and was always going on fun adventures with her family.

She is survived by her daughters Kim Criswell (Steve Minch) of Defiance, Ohio, and Kelly Kleman of Hatley, Wisc.; grandchildren Savannah Marie of Defiance, Ohio, Kyle and Charlotte Kleman of Hatley, Wisc.; sisters Sharon (Mark) Porcaro, Marlene (Mike) Porcaro, Evelyn Buffton, Michelle Payment (Marty Nolan), and sister-in-law Janet Payment, all of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.; and a brother Donny (Linda) Payment of Greenville, S.C. She also had a special place in her heart for her nieces and nephews. Carol cherished the relationships she had with her cousins and all of the friendships she made throughout her life.

Carol loved her daughters and grandchildren with all of her being and would have done anything in the world for them. She had such an infectious personality, and a sense of humor like no other. She was well known and well liked throughout the community. Carol had a beautiful, caring soul and she will be greatly missed.

A celebration of life is being planned in early August. Details will be posted on Facebook.

ANDREW G. BENSON

On Wednesday, March 22, 2023, Andrew George Benson passed away at age 56. He was born May 9, 1966, in Flint, Mich., son of Andrew C. and Ann C. (Gollinger) Benson.

Andy loved to hunt, fish, golf and enjoy time with friends and family. He always had a silly joke, a funny nickname, and a big smile for anyone he knew.

See "Walking on," page 18

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

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



- First/Middle/Last Name
- Date of Birth
- Date of Death
- Murdered/When/Where
- Perpetrator Name if known:

- If Missing:
- Nickname/Alias
- Date Last Seen/Went Missing
- Physical Description
- Distinctive Physical Features
- Vehicle Information



Any information would be appreciated.

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

Novel tells tale of 'forbidden' Ojibwe ghost story

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

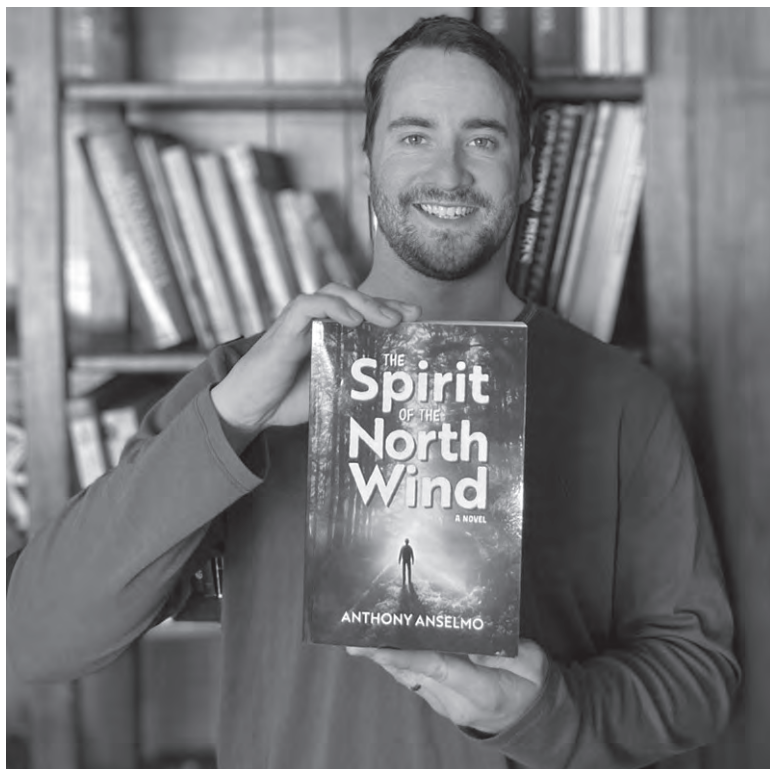
Sault Tribe member Anthony Anselmo grew up in the northern Minnesota wilderness in the "Land of 10,000 Lakes," where he learned about his Ojibwe heritage from his father and grandfather.

Combining that heritage with great storytelling skills led to the creation of Anselmo's debut young adult low fantasy novel *The Spirit of the North Wind*. "The idea for the book seemed to come out of thin air. Like a mysterious gift mixed with past experiences and oral stories that formed in my head and all I had to do was start writing," Anselmo said.

In his novel, Anselmo introduces 13-year-old Sody Fairbanks, who "awakens a terrifying Ojibwe spirit when he persuades his grandfather to tell a forbidden ghost story."

Instead of a peaceful summer, the young protagonist must confront the icy heart of the vengeful spirit and defeat it before it's too late. His fate, if he doesn't successfully accomplish his task, would leave him trapped within the spirit world forever.

Anselmo said his love for the mysterious has inspired him to write about the strange and unusual, weaving his own experiences into his tales. "I started writing this book in 2018," he said. "It initially started out as a memoir, but my mind soon forced



Anthony Anselmo

my pen hand to create a fictional story based on Native American folklore. The story almost seemed to write itself once I began."

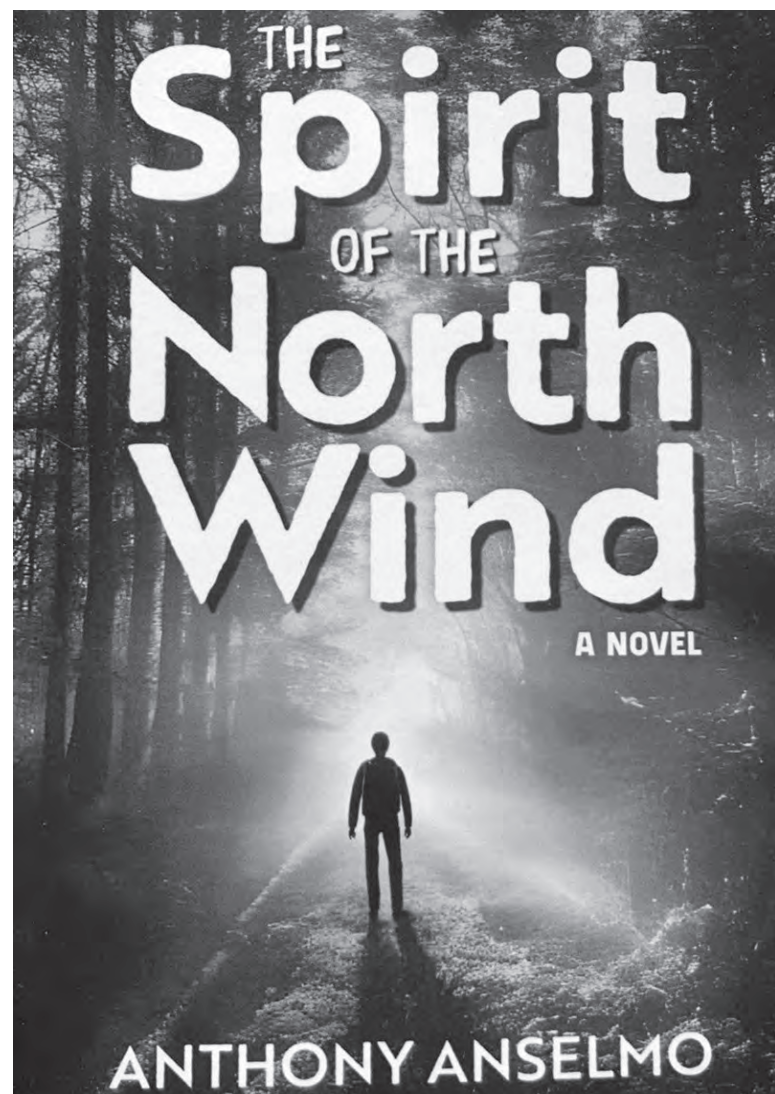
It took Anselmo four months to complete the first draft and four years of editing and refining the manuscript before it was accepted for publication by Black Bears and Blueberries Publishing, a Native-owned and -operated non-profit publisher. "Their goal is to further a social cause or shared mission, which in this case, is starting and advancing

the careers of Native writers and illustrators," Anselmo said.

Anselmo graduated from high school in Bigfork, Minn., in 2012 with a Bachelor's degree in biology and in 2016 from the College of St. Scholastica.

He worked as a biological technician for the U.S. Geological Service in 2017 before getting a job as a fish and wildlife specialist with the 1854 Treaty Authority in 2018.

He said he's already started his next novel and plans to have



it finished this year. "For anyone daring to break the mold—don't be afraid to be great."

The *Spirit of the North Wind* can be found on Amazon and Barnesandnoble.com by doing a

title search. Anselmo said he also has hard copies he can autograph and ship to people interested in having a signed copy.

To contact him, email anthonyfrankanselmo@gmail.com.

Walking on continued...

From "Walking on," page 17

Andy graduated from Swartz Creek High School, Class of 1984. He has resided in Williamstown, W.V., since his graduation from Central Michigan University.



He is survived by wife, Celeste; his sons Andrew William and Mitchell; father, Andrew C. (Margaret-deceased August 2020); brother, Aaron (Kathi); aunt, Myrna; uncles, Court and Frank; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Andy was preceded in death by his mother, Ann (Larry).

LARRY RICHARD GOUINE

Larry Richard Gouine, 75, of Newaygo, Mich., passed peacefully on Saturday, Feb 25, 2023 surrounded by family and friends who loved him dearly.



Larry was born on April 14, 1947 in Cheboygan Mich., to parents Gerald Gouine and Lorriane (Shampine) Billiau.

Preceded in death by his parents, along with stepfather Charles Billiau and brother Jerry Gouine. Larry was the beloved oldest of five siblings Jerry, Sherri (Tracey), Tina and Jennifer (David). He was admired by several nieces, neph-

ews and cousins. Larry will be eternally remembered by his two children, Tisha (Gouine) and Joe Bouchard of Brighton, Ryan Gouine and Donna (Looney) of Commerce Twp, Mich.

Larry was a United States Army Vietnam Veteran and a very talented man who enjoyed many careers throughout his lifetime. Television, Vogue fashion shows, Graphic Artist/ Illustrator and he loved being a fly-fishing guide. Larry also opened the Merganser Wildlife Art and Fly-fishing Gallery in Holly, Mich.

As a proud member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Ojibwe Indians, in 2012 Larry co-founded The Native Circle of Newaygo County, where he resided for over 20 years. He was happy to educate people of his culture and volunteered much of his time to do so.

Larry is survived by his grandchildren Anastasia, Caleb (Kayleigh), Eleora, Mikailah, Timmy, Gracie, Anna and Hunter, and his great grandchild Arabella.

Larry continuously gave to the community or anyone in need and spread positivity, love, and hope through his stories, advice, kindness and humility.

His passion for nature and wildlife shows in the beautiful photographs he has taken through the years. The respect he had for the water and rivers is admirable, yet the grace of his flyfishing was art itself. His teachings will forever remain in our hearts. Baamaapii

A celebration of life gathering will be held this spring or summer. Friends and family will be notified in a timely manner.

Sault Tribe Elders Announce Scholarships

Applications are being solicited for (4) one-time \$500 scholarships from the Sault Tribe Elders for qualified freshmen enrolled in public colleges, universities or trade schools. All applicants must be registered Sault Tribe members with the following qualifications:

- Graduated from an accredited high school with a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.50.
- Or successfully completed and passed all five General Education Development (GED) equivalency tests with a minimum score of 40 and an average score of 45 and must possess a GED certificate.
- Accepted or enrolled in any two- or four-year public college, university or trade school in any field of study as a full-time student.

Applicants must submit letters of application that include:

- Cover page which includes: Name, address, telephone number, email address, proof of tribal enrollment and academic major or course of study to be pursued.
- Transcript from the applicant's high school verifying the cumulative grade point average.
- Or proof of achieving GED requirements stated above.
- Letter from the college, university or trade school, showing acceptance for the 2023-2024 school year.
- Essay of 300-500 words describing how you feel a college education will benefit you and your career objectives and why this scholarship will help you achieve your goal.

The deadline for applications is June 30, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. All requirements listed above must be received by the Elder Service Division, ATTN Elder Scholarship, 2076 Shunk Road, Sault Ste Marie, Michigan 49783. Please Note: Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

If you have any question please contact Holly Kibble, Elder Service Division Director at (906) 635-4971

Health director reviews COVID pandemic accomplishments

BY SAULT TRIBE HEALTH DIRECTOR LEO CHUGUNOV

Sault Tribe Health Division (STHD) currently has nine tribal health centers located in seven counties, recovery housing located in Kincheloe and a fitness club located in Sault Ste. Marie. Our team consists of 312 team members. We are serving a population of approximately 16,000 tribal members, local Medicaid recipients, Sault Tribe team members and their dependents.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, STHD quickly re-invented itself with the establishment of a COVID-19 hotline and the expansion telehealth and telemedicine services offered to patients. STHD team members demonstrated true courage and went way above and beyond their job descriptions every day, which helped tremendously during mass testing and mass vaccination events.

Unlike many mass COVID-

19 testing events in 2020 when results were available to patients in several days or sometimes even weeks, our events were organized in a manner that allowed us to produce results in several hours. Our team members immediately communicated with patients who tested positive and provided them with guidance, isolation notices and return to work notices as needed. All of these actions helped to limit the spread of disease in our area.

STHD was the first healthcare organization in Michigan's Upper Peninsula (U.P.) that launched mass COVID-19 vaccination events in December 2020. The highest number of patients vaccinated by our team in one day was documented in St. Ignace with more than 1,500 doses of COVID-19 vaccine administered!

In order to offer more convenience to our patients we purchased two mobile medical offices for testing and vaccina-

tions. On a number of occasions, mobile medical offices were transported to islands by car ferries to test and vaccinate patients there.

STHD also began COVID-19 PCR testing in-house in April 2020, a little over a month after the pandemic began. By the beginning of December, Point-of-Care COVID-19 analyzers were installed in all of our tribal health centers and about 60 team members were trained to operate them. Team members never experienced a lack of personal protective equipment or reagents for COVID-19 testing. Although sometimes the supply was tight, it was always sufficient to meet the needs of the tribal community and team members.

As of March 2023, STHD has administered 18,913 doses of COVID-19 vaccine with 16,140 doses administered during 2021. We were also the first healthcare organization in Michigan's U.P.

that offered Paxlovid treatment to patients.

It has been a true accomplishment for the tribal Health Division as a whole to maintain regular safe and effective services to patients while learning to navigate all the new COVID-19 regulations and respond to testing and vaccination needs of patients at the same time. Despite all major issues caused by the pandemic, the Health Division team also worked on a number of quality improvement projects that contributed to steady growth in our patients' satisfaction rate. In 2022, it went from 86% in the first quarter to 92% in the fourth quarter.

Also in 2022, Sault Tribe purchased buildings in DeTour and Gladstone to be used for tribal health centers. During the last 12 months, STHD obtained the following accreditations: AAAHC, CARF, COLA, ACR and FDA. The Health Division also passed

MDHHS' inspection of their COVID-19 vaccination program with flying colors. Additionally, they reached 100% compliance with the CDC's COVID-19 vaccination mandate for healthcare workers.

I would like to express gratitude and commend the Sault Tribe Board of Directors and Executive Director Christine McPherson for valuable guidance and support provided to the Health Division and its team members for their heroic efforts in combating of COVID-19 pandemic.

As a result, many lives were saved!

In 2022, 15 Health Division team members received various awards for their heroism during the pandemic. Two team members received National Indian Health Services awards.

This year, 36 team members have already been nominated for healthcare awards.

Sault Tribe and Bay Mills sponsor areas first Recovery Gala

FROM SAULT TRIBE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

On March 10, Sault Tribe Behavioral Health and Bay Mills Behavioral Health, put on a Recovery Gala. This event was the first of its kind in the area.

It all started from the dream of one recovery coach, and knowing how important this event would be for the community was the driving force. Months of planning went into the event. This effort was all for the community and we hoped it would be well received. Supporting those in recovery is a huge part of the process, and substance free community events are hard to come by.

The event went above and

beyond what was expected with over 100 attendees. An opening from Sault Tribe Traditional

"We cannot thank these individuals and businesses enough for their kindness and generosity in helping to make this a successful event."

Medicine was the perfect way to start the event. The food was outstanding thanks to Superior Goodness and Catering. The DJ, Simply Unforgettable, was just that and kept people dancing right until the lights came on. The photobooth from Picture This was such a hit and the props they provided added an extra layer of fun.

The community was so

receptive and supportive of this event. Area businesses and individuals donated 30 prizes for the attendees.

Donations were made by Rachel McCord and Dye Hard Salon, Eagle Radio, Cup of the Day, Sherry Molitor and Farmers Insurance, Lambros Quigley Law Firm, Symmetry Studios, The Palace, Dominos, Guidos Pizza, Gym 906, Claudette Crook, Rhonda Black, Buffalo Wild Wings, Soo Motors, Sault Realism, Big Bear Arena, Trisha Gough, Kewadin Casinos, The France Firm, and Barish's. We cannot thank these individuals and businesses enough for their kindness and generosity in helping to make this a successful event.

Upon arrival, attendees received a gift bag filled with a large variety of items. A special thank you to all those entities that donated to the gift bags: Bay Mills Behavioral Health, Sault Tribe Behavioral Health, Sault Tribe Community Health, Sault Tribe Pharmacy, and Sault Tribe Perinatal Care Program.

This event was great for our community. The turnout shows there is a great need for such events in the future. There has already been talk of planning future events for our community, and businesses told organizers they were willing to donate to future events.

Sober activities are a critical part of the recovery process. There are many ways that sober activities can benefit the recovering person. Making recovery fun and enjoyable can make a huge impact on your success.

Enjoying yourself while in recovery can reduce the risk of relapse and highly increase your success rate.

Sober activities can also help you realize that you don't have to have mind altering substances in your body to have fun. Your mental health, your self-control, and your life in general can improve immensely by having sober fun.

With a 98% cure rate, everyone over 18 should consider Hep C testing

BY SCOTT BRAND

With a cure rate approaching 98 percent utilizing today's medications, Hepatitis C Program Director Catherine Wilkerson is encouraging everyone over the age of 18 to get tested.

"The evaluation and treatment are covered by Medicaid and most insurances and usually can be provided to members of the Sault Tribe even if they are uninsured," said Dr. Wilkerson from a conference room inside the Sault Tribe Health Center regarding the program which launched in February. "We have started treatment for several people already and are ramping up. We are in the process of reaching out to people and educating the community about the availability of treatment."

Hepatitis C or "broken spirit" is a contagious disease that leads to inflammation of the liver, explained Wilkerson estimating that more than 3 million people in the United States have chronic Hepatitis C. The illness can become serious leading to scarring of the liver and liver cancer and many people live for years

with the disease without realizing they are infected.

"If we can identify it now, we can prevent potential long-term consequences," said Wilkerson of the importance of testing adding, "the newer treatments are much better tolerated than the old."

Treatment for Hepatitis C is relatively simple, according to Wilkerson. Medication will be prescribed and filled by the pharmacy. From there, the patient will go home and take the prescribed pills for 8-12 weeks.

"We're very happy to be able to offer treatment right here in Sault Ste. Marie," said Wilkerson. "In the past, everyone had to travel long distances, which made it a great hardship."

Baby Boomers, born between 1945 and 1965, are five times more likely to have Hepatitis C than the general population.

"In those days there was no awareness of Hepatitis C and 40 percent of the people we diagnose have no known risk factors," said Wilkerson. "Even getting a tattoo might have been a cause of infection."



Dr. Catherine Wilkerson

American Indians and Alaska Natives have the highest Hepatitis C mortality rate of any race or ethnicity.

While this program is currently only offered at the Sault Tribe Health Clinic, Wilkerson said the future plans call for expanding it into all of the medical clinics across the seven-county service area.

For more information, or to schedule an appointment contact Dr. Wilkerson at (906) 259-2827 or Margaret Smith at (906) 259-2998.

Reno - February Team Member of the Month



Sault Tribe Health Division Team Member of the Month for February is Ms. Edy Reno (left) from Medical Records. Presenting her with her award is Health Division Director Dr. Leo Chugunov.

Transportation hires Fabry for mobility coordinator

The Sault Tribe Transportation Department has hired a local life-long resident, Loriann Fabry, as the mobility coordinator.

A graduate of Sault High and Lake Superior State University with two Associates, one in Personal Computer Specialist and the other in Office Administration and a certificate in Information Processing, Fabry was hired to this position in November.

She has worked with the tribe in the past in many positions for ten plus years.

In her new capacity Fabry

will serve as a point of contact for information about all transit resources available in the seven-county region, including various bus services as well as services operated by private agencies and organizations.

Fabry will promote the enhancement and facilitation of access to transportation services, including the integration and coordination of services with all agencies and will promote the FTA initiative on the development of coordinated transit services as appropriate, within the

region.

Fabry says she looks forward to working with the membership and local communities.

The Transportation Department has conducted extensive research on mobility options available within the tribal service area and developed a Public Tribal Transit Implementation Plan.

Transportation is implementing Regional Transit Programming by collaborating with local providers to expand services.

The Transportation Department works to bring together various aspects of construction management, transportation, community planning and land use to promote a prosperous quality of life for tribal communities, while being mindful of the membership and tribe's unique Anishinaabe values and traditions.

Transportation's primary areas of focus include large scale construction management, transit, community planning, maintenance, safety and grant administration.



Loriann Fabry

Sexual Assault Awareness observed this April —

From "SA Awareness," page 1
 cation or incapacitation via drugs or alcohol, among other factors. Rape is a form of SA, but not all SA is rape. Rape is often used as a legal definition to indicate that the act included sexual penetration.

Sexual Harassment (SH) occurs in the workplace or places of learning like schools and creates an environment that most people would find intimidating, hostile, or offensive. In general, SH violates civil laws, but in many cases is not criminal. SH describes behavior such as unwelcome sexual advanc-

es; sexual jokes; discussing sexual relations, stories, or fantasies at inappropriate places; unwanted sexually explicit photos, emails, or text messages; exposing oneself; unwanted physical contact; and other conduct of a sexual nature.

So, what can we do to prevent Sexual Violence?

Encourage social norms that prevent violence, like learning to be an active bystander when witnessing abuse and promoting healthy masculinity in boys and men.

Support survivors by listening

to and believing them and avoiding engagement in victim blaming, both of which work against rape culture.

Teach healthy skills and ideas to the next generation, like social-emotional learning, healthy sexuality, consent, safe dating and intimate relationship skills, and empowerment.

These are just a few ways to stand up against SV for a better and safer future.

There are many factors and intersections in understanding Sexual Violence, such as power

and control, addiction, colonialism, racism, sexism, and more.

Continue educating yourself about SV and how to prevent it at www.niwrc.org, www.rainn.org, www.nsvrc.org, and cdc.gov. Also, watch the Advocacy Resource Center's Facebook page during April for more information about different types of sexual violence, the effects of SA, safety and prevention, bystander intervention, and available services for survivors — www.facebook.com/saulttribeARC.

It is essential to know that SV, SA, and SH are NEVER the

survivor's fault. Sexual assault is caused by perpetrators motivated by their desire to control, humiliate, and harm. If you have been impacted by any sexual violence, the Advocacy Resource Center can help. We have a variety of supportive services available to all. For more information, contact the Advocacy Resource Center at (906) 632-1808, toll-free at (877) 639-7820, or visit our website at www.arcsaulttribe.com.

Remember — you are not alone, you are not to blame, and help is available.

Ready to retire? Apply online with Social Security

BY HILLARY HATCH, SOCIAL SECURITY PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

It's never too early to start planning for retirement and our online tools can help. Go to www.ssa.gov/myaccount to access your personal my Social Security account to get an estimate of your retirement benefits based on your earnings record.

Once you have an account,

you can use our Plan for Retirement tool to see how your benefits can change at different ages. Don't have a personal my Social Security account? You can create one at www.ssa.gov/myaccount.

You can also use your personal my Social Security account to see your entire work history and make sure we have all your wages recorded correctly. We

base your benefit amount on the earnings reported to us. If you find any errors in your work history, read this guide www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10081.pdf to learn how to correct your Social Security record.

When you're ready to apply for Social Security retirement benefits, you can complete our online application in as little as 15 minutes at www.ssa.gov/

retirement. We will contact you if we need any further information. You can check the status of your application through your online account.

You can apply online for Social Security retirement benefits, or benefits as a spouse, if you:

- Are at least 61 years and nine months old.
- Are not currently receiving

benefits on your own Social Security record.

• Have not already applied for retirement benefits.

• Want your benefits to start no later than four months in the future. (We cannot process your application if you apply for benefits more than four months in advance)

Find out more at www.ssa.gov/retirement.

Social Security common questions and the answers

BY HILLARY HATCH, SOCIAL SECURITY PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

Question: I prefer reading by audio book. Does Social Security have audio publications?

Answer: Yes, we do. You can find them at www.ssa.gov/pubs. Some of the publications available include What You Can Do Online, Working While Disabled - How We Can Help, Apply Online for Social Security Benefits, and Your Social Security Card and Number. You can listen now at www.ssa.gov/pubs.

Question: I am receiving Social Security retirement benefits and I recently went back to work. Do I have to pay Social Security (FICA) taxes on my income?

Answer: Yes. By law, your employer must withhold FICA taxes from your paycheck.

Although you are retired, you do receive credit for those new earnings. Each year Social Security automatically credits the new earnings and, if your new earnings are higher than in any earlier year used to calculate your current benefit, your monthly benefit could increase. For more information, visit www.ssa.gov or call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Question: I'm trying to figure out how much I need to save for my retirement. Does the government offer any help with financial education?

Answer: Yes. For starters, you may want to find out what you can expect from Social Security with a visit to Social Security's Retirement Estimator at www.ssa.gov/estimator. The Financial Literacy and Education Commission has a website that can help you with the basics of financial education: www.mymoney.gov. Finally, you'll want to check out the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which offers educational information on a number of financial matters, including mortgages, credit cards, retirement, and other big decisions. Visit the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau at www.consumerfinance.gov.

Question: I'm expecting a baby this June. What do I need to do to get a Social Security number for my baby?

Answer: Apply for a number at the hospital when you apply for your baby's birth certificate. The state agency that issues birth certificates will share your child's information with us and we will mail the Social Security card to you. You can learn more about the Social Security number and card by reading our online

publication Social Security Numbers for Children, available at www.ssa.gov/pubs.

Question: I haven't received my Social Security Statement in the mail the last few years. Will I ever get one again?

Answer: We currently mail Social Security Statements to workers age 60 and over who aren't receiving Social Security benefits and do not yet have a my Social Security account. We mail the Statements three months prior to your birthday. Instead of waiting to receive a mailed Statement, we encourage people to open a my Social Security account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount so they can access their Statement online, anytime.

Question: I'm gathering everything I'll need to file my taxes this month. Do I have to pay taxes on Social Security benefits? Also, where can I get a replacement 1099?

Answer: Some people who get Social Security must pay federal income taxes on their benefits. Still, no one pays taxes on more than 85 percent of their Social Security benefits.

You must pay taxes on some portion of your benefits if you file an individual federal tax return and your income exceeds \$25,000. If you file a joint return, you must pay taxes if you and your spouse have

combined income of more than \$32,000.

If you are married and file a separate return, you probably will have to pay taxes on your benefits. You can read more about tax preparation in relation to Social Security at www.ssa.gov/planners/taxes.htm.

Social Security benefits include monthly retirement,

survivors, and disability benefits. They don't include Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments, which are not taxable. You can also get a replacement 1099 or 1042S when you open your own personal my Social Security account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount.



CALLING ALL SURVIVORS

"THE ART OF HEALING" EVENT
 The Advocacy Resource Center will be hosting "The Art of Healing" event in April for Sexual Assault Awareness Month. This event will be centered around healing through the art of painting. This is a community event for all impacted by sexual violence.

ARC is looking for survivors to share their stories of healing anonymously. These stories will be displayed during "The Art of Healing" event to bring hope to the process of healing from the impacts of Sexual Violence by highlighting survivors' strengths and resiliency."

Submissions can be sent to:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/11uNuq66gUNB1G_WpCXGULG96SPsgVQP6aCI3717Tf1Kk/edit

www.arcsaulttribe.com

SETTLEMENT EXPLANATION: *An Open Letter to the Membership from Sault Tribe General Counsel Aaron Schlehuber*

For almost a year, the Kewadin Casino and Sault Tribe governments have had to be pretty quiet about what has been called the “JLLJ litigation,” sometimes referred to as “the Lansing case” or simply and pointedly “the \$88 million.” When any organization is involved in litigation of this magnitude, the best practice from a legal standpoint is to not discuss the case publicly so that nothing can be used against you in court. Now that the case has moved onto settlement, we can more openly discuss what occurred and the steps we are taking to get through it.

Before going into the details of the settlement, I want to start by stating that no one is happy that it had to proceed so quickly. Typically, on an issue as impactful as this, we would want to allow ample opportunity for member input. The reality is sometimes litigation and business matters do not mesh well with the goal of transparent governance and constituent dialogue. This, unfortunately, is one of those times. The speed required to settle this case simply did not allow for the kind of tribal-wide participation that we normally hope to see. Put simply, had we not moved quickly, and, due to a recent Court decision, had we not settled, JLLJ could have begun collecting money from our bank accounts on Monday.

Now for the details of the settlement. It’s no secret that the law firm the casino was using to provide legal services did a bad job defending us. They did such a bad job that the casino was defaulted, meaning we never even got to litigate the case. As a result, we have spent months trying to get out from an \$88 million judgment against us and are now filing a lawsuit against our former law firm for its poor work that landed us in this position.

The settlement we have reached with JLLJ is both simple and complicated. Simply put, we were able to settle the case for \$25 million. That’s a 75% reduction from the original judgment. The more complex part of the settlement involves our agreement to turn over up to \$10 million of any money we are able to collect from the law firm that got us into this predicament after we file a malpractice lawsuit against them. If we are not able to collect anything from the law firm, we will have to pay out another \$5 million over a 5-year period. In the end, our former development partner JLLJ will have received anywhere from \$30-35 million instead of the \$88 million judgment that was ordered, plus the additional millions of dollars in interest per year.

The obvious question, and one that leadership asked of its new legal team, was why settle? Why pay anything if we truly think we are in the right? First, we already lost the case, which is

why we use the word “default.” This means that in the very near future our former partner was going to be able to start collecting its judgement. The payments on an \$88 million judgment would have put a significant strain on casino operations and ultimately on the tribe itself.

Second, while we had a great deal of faith in winning a number of key points on appeal, the case would be another significant expense. We estimated that an eventual win was going to cost \$15-25 million. That figure includes the relative certainty that we would be ordered to pay back what our former partners put into the project plus interest and possibly attorney fees. Those numbers add up to nearly \$20 million on their own.

On top of the financial considerations of a settlement, we knew it would be several more years of having the case hang over our heads. This negatively impacts morale and the ability of the tribe and casino to properly plan for the future. There is a real cost to assign to those impacts that also had to be weighed.

So, if a win was going to cost us up to \$20 million and we could settle for \$25 million with the possibility of \$5 million more over a few years...it became fairly obvious that was a deal we needed to take.

A final consideration in the settlement was the continued financial cloud that would negatively impact banking, regulatory and audit issues at the casino. Any attempt by Kewadin or the

tribe to secure financing would have been seriously hampered, if even possible at all. The audits, which serve an important role in all manner of financial relationships, would reflect Kewadin as having a significant debt and would perhaps even go so far as to declare the casino no longer “a going concern.” That is an accounting term that means an organization is not financially stable enough to meet its obligations and continue its business. That would likely cause the National Indian Gaming Commission to sit up and take notice, which is a regulatory door we did not want to go anywhere near.

To be clear, settlement was not an easy decision – for anybody. The legal team brought in

to replace our previous firm is exceptional and were very much looking forward to setting the trial judge straight on a number of matters in the appeals court. Ultimately, they advised that settling was in fact the best path forward, and I wholeheartedly agreed for the reasons laid out above.


The Management Board of the Gaming Authority, having been presented this position over several long grueling days, finally pushed past their unhappiness with the idea and agreed as well. Again, their decision was based very much on the reality that a win was going cost almost as much as the settlement and decided accepting the settlement was the prudent thing to do.

ADVOCACY RESOURCE CENTER

3rd Annual

DENIM DAY

COMPETITION




WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2023


Denim Day was created in 1999 to protest the common misconception that clothing styles contribute to sexual violence.

The ARC is asking you to wear your denim and teal (if you have it) to recognize April's Sexual Assault Awareness Month and take a photograph of you or your team wearing your denim.

3 winning groups will be drawn at random to receive a \$100 pizza party. 3 individual winners will win a \$25 pizza gift card.

To enter, send your photos to Community Educator Jess Gillotte-King at jgillotte@saulttribe.net OR COMMENT YOUR PHOTO ON ARC'S FACEBOOK PAGE UNDER THE DENIM DAY POST ON APRIL 26.

PROMOTE SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS BY ENDING VICTIM BLAMING!





YOUR CLOTHES DO NOT DETERMINE YOUR CONSENT.

www.arcsaulttribe.com

Tribal chairman travels to Capitol Hill, meets with congressmen, representatives and MAST



AUSTIN LOWES
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Aaniin,

The first thing I'd like to discuss during this unit report is MAST Impact Week. MAST is an organization that stands for the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes, which is comprised of tribes from the Midwest. Once a year, this organization meets in Washington, D.C. for MAST Impact Week. During this gathering, tribal leaders meet with congressmen and senators to advocate for Indian issues. This year, I attended MAST Impact Week with Vice Chairman LaPlaunt. The two of us met with Senator Gary Peters (Michigan), Senator Debbie Stabenow (Michigan), Senator Jon Tester (Montana), Senator Tina Smith (Minnesota), Congressman Jack Bergman (Michigan), and others.

We discussed the need to protect tribal children if ICWA is overturned, boarding schools, creating parity with the retirement that tribal police officers receive compared to federal officers, increasing appropriations for tribal housing, supporting the Farm Bill, strengthening behavioral health services, improving health care in Indian Country, and more. Treaties are the supreme law of the land, and it's important for tribal leaders to remind the U.S.

government of its treaty obligations to tribes. I'd like to thank our vice chairman for stepping up and helping on this trip. His assistance, along with the support we received from our legislative staff, made this trip a success.

I'd now like to provide an update regarding fishing rights. The Sault Tribe received funding from the Consolidated Appropriations Act - Fishery Disaster Assistance Funds, which are commonly referred to as the NOAA funds. These funds were appropriated from Congress to help offset the financial impact that COVID had on tribal fishermen. From these funds, the board authorized direct payments to commercial fishermen who can demonstrate a 35% loss in 2020, which is a requirement specifically from Congress. Direct payments were also authorized for the following 2020 fishers: Great Lakes Subsistence cardholders, Walleye Lake System 24-hour permitholders, Black Lake Sturgeon permitholders, and individuals who submitted a special methods of harvest report from spearing. The board hired a tax professional to assist commercial fishermen demonstrate their loss to be considered for a direct payment from this fund. All other fishers have been provided their payments, which amounted to \$1,485.

I'd now like to discuss hunting rights. Earlier in the year, the tribe purchased 560 acres of property on Sugar Island with ARPA funding. The tribe doesn't currently allow hunting on its property, even in forested locations that are an appropriate distance from houses. I believe this should change. I support opening our forests up to hunting and gathering. I will introduce this topic at an upcoming workshop



Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes and U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow (L-R).

so forest and game management strategies can be discussed. It is my goal for tribal citizens to be able to hunt in these locations this fall.

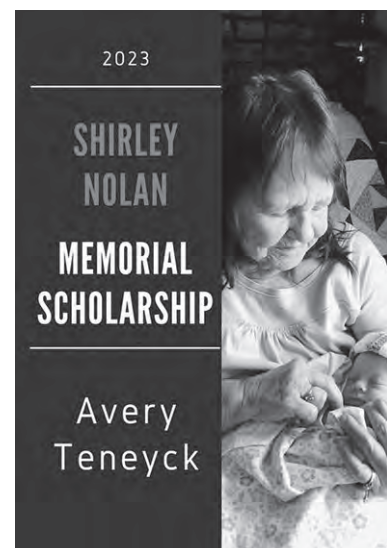
I'll now discuss our elections. As a sovereign nation, it is imperative that our elections follow code, our Constitution, and established timelines.

Unfortunately, this has not been occurring. Several recent referendums, which cost the tribe tens of thousands of dollars, missed the window to be completed. In addition to this, the language on these referendums, which was created by the Election Committee, was

extremely confusing, leading many tribal citizens to not even know what they were voting on. Ballots were also sent out a week early in the recent Special Advisory Election, which directly violated the campaign schedule, which is an agreement between the candidates and the tribe.

In addition to this, there is an unfortunate trend of individuals on the Election Committee refusing to recuse themselves from elections that involve their immediate family members, even though the Election Code specifically requires it. Although the board took steps to improve our Election Code shortly after

the 2022 General Election, these repeated violations show that much work is needed. I realize this is an uncomfortable topic for many, but this must be addressed.



2023
SHIRLEY NOLAN
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Avery Teneyck

To conclude, I'd like to announce the recipient of the 2023 Shirley Nolan Scholarship. I personally fund this scholarship to honor my grandma Shirley, who passed away in 2018. My grandma Shirley was a well-known tribal elder who was a strong supporter of higher education. She encouraged me to earn a bachelor's degree from Lake Superior State University and a master's degree from Michigan State University.

This year, Avery TenEyck was awarded this scholarship. Avery is finishing his first year of law school at Northern Illinois University College of Law. He graduated from Lake Superior State University's Political Science Program. He was also the captain of Sault Area High School's hockey team. Job well done, Avery. Keep up the good work!

Miigwech for reading!
Austin Lowes
Sault Tribe Chairman



ON THE HILL — Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes meets with U.S. Senator Gary Peters, Michigan Congressman Jack Bergman, and U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow, (L-R) among others, while visiting Washington, D.C.



Director Hampton gives rundown on issues



**KIMBERLY HAMPTON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV**

Aniin kina waya (hello everybody).

As I am writing this month's update, the first official day of spring has occurred and the weather is starting to warm up. I did not know how much I missed hearing birds chirping and the smell of warm, fresh air. I hope you all are enjoying spring.

During the end of February 2023, I started holding Zoom meetings called, "Ketchup with Kim," as an avenue for our tribal membership, within Unit IV as well as any of our units, including at-large members, to converse with me and hold discussions regarding upcoming resolutions, ideas members have for our tribe, and current issues. I openly welcome anyone to attend these Zoom meetings as change will take a tribe. For Zoom meeting information, please visit my Facebook social media page for log in information. Miigwech.

Powwow Meetings

Unit IV will have a 2023

Niiwin Noodin (Four Winds) Powwow on Saturday, June 10, with a ceremony opening and talking circle, the evening of Friday, June 9. In the next couple of months, everyone is encouraged to "like" the Niiwin Noodin (Four Winds) Powwow Facebook page to keep updated on progress and to find contact information regarding vendors and additional information. A huge miigwech to everyone who has been involved in planning this event. I appreciate you all.

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

April 27, 2023, at 5 p.m. EST

May 1, 2023, at 5 p.m. EST

Unit 4 Elder Meetings

I encourage our tribal elders to attend elder meetings to become involved as well as stay updated on what our elder committees are working on.

The next meeting in Marquette, which is a combination of Units IV and V, will be Thursday, May 4, 5:30 p.m., at the Holiday Inn in Marquette

The next meeting in Manistique will be held May 10, 12 p.m., at the Manistique Tribal Center. The next meeting in Escanaba will be held May 10, at 5 p.m. at the Delta County Chamber Building.

March Activities

New Mechanism Creation

In Progress: On March 14, I had an item on our workshop agenda regarding mechanisms to provide employees a means of

having a process for complaints against the board of directors. Board of directors are elected officials, so currently there is nothing in place to allow an employee, or key employee, the ability to file a complaint against a board of director. The necessary resolutions, policies and procedures for such a mechanism will take some time to develop and get approved at a board of directors meeting. I want our membership to be assured that I will continue the creation and implementation of such a mechanism in order to provide due process for employees as well as board of directors. I will provide updates throughout this process.

Tribal Homeland Security Advisory Council (THSAC):

On March 23, I attended a meeting to start reviewing the THSAC Charter and Bylaws, the current meeting schedule, both via Zoom and in-person, and create workgroups. There is information I am not authorized to release regarding the THSAC, at this time, but what I can share is that we are working as a collaborative group of various tribal leaders on priorities to help protect and advocate for all tribal nations. I will provide updates and share information as I am able to.

Manistique Fitness Center and Escanaba Community Center:

Roy Ness Contracting has been chosen to be the contractor for both projects. Director Morrow and myself have been meeting with engineers and planners regarding interior design and architectur-

al options for both projects. I look forward to seeing both of these projects break ground this summer to begin building and to see plans turn into a reality. Both the Manistique community and the Escanaba community need these projects completed in order to work toward the betterment of our tribe.

Meetings Attended:

JKL Fiduciary Committee

Meetings- March 23.

Gaming Authority Meeting- March 7.

Looking Forward

I held "Ketchup with Kim" Zoom meetings on March 10, and March 16, with the next scheduled meeting to be Friday, April 7, at 6 p.m., via Zoom. I will continue to hold Zoom meetings to meet with members regarding upcoming resolutions,

current issues, and ideas from members for our tribe. I extend the invite for anyone who has ideas to better our tribe.

Please feel free to reach out to me with your ideas. After all, you are the membership and I am your representative. I am also looking to begin exploring the ideas that members have shared with me and start implementing some of these amazing ideas.

Chi miigwetch 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.

Board makes plans for fishing relief funds



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

I'm happy to announce (with many requests as my priority) we have made a plan to move forward with the fishing relief funds for subsistence and commercial fisherman. Although it's not perfect, we have a timeline to expend these funds and it took long months to hammer out a plan.

All the subsistence fishermen will be receiving a check for their potential loss and we are attempting to work with a local accountant to walk the commercial fisherman through the process. I have asked that all the fisherman receive a letter explaining in detail the steps to qualify. If we cannot secure an accountant, I have asked that we try to work out a separate plan for the commercial fisherman. I will update in my next report.

I am excited that the latest election is done and I look forward to installing the candidate that received the most votes from the members in Unit I. It takes a lot to put yourself out there and I would like to say chi miigwech to all the candidates.

Congratulations to Joanne Carr, and once the Election Committee certifies the results, I will be strongly advocating to

install immediately. We have a lot of work to get to and she will be an asset to our tribe. Thank you to all the members of the Election Committee as well!

As promised, I have secured a date for the board and membership to begin discussions on constitutional amendments. This date is April 11. The workshop item will start at 1 p.m. in Sault Ste. Marie (casino Whitefish Point room). I encourage all interested to attend and take part. I'm hoping no games are played with this item and we can constructively move forward.

We have many items that we are working through at the board level and the glaring one of importance is the judgment and lawsuit. I cannot say much here in writing, but I assure you that it's being worked through Legal and remains the main focus for our tribe at this time. I can assure you I will be steadfast and responsible for the decisions I make moving forward.

I'm looking forward to spring, and getting ready to plan for our upcoming summer gathering. If you are interested in getting on any of our committees for the powwows, please reach out. I cannot wait to visit all at the gatherings coming up.

If you would like to meet or discuss items, please contact to me (906) 484-2954, (906) 322-3818 or lcausley@saulttribe.net.

Baamaapii,
Lana Causley-Smith,
Unit II Representative

Front-line workers are the backbone of organization



**SHAWN BOROWICZ,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

Tribal members,

I hope this report finds you all healthy, happy and looking forward to the upcoming summer months. The tribe has many activities planned for the summer and to celebrate our 50 years of federal recognition as a sovereign nation.

Although we have always been our own people and didn't need the federal government to tell us this, its still a great milestone and a reason to celebrate our ancestors and our future.

With all our powwows in the various units our grand assembly will be happening on June 29-30 in Sault Ste. Marie.

Our new health center is still in the works with the final drawings being drafted with a lot of input from the medical, dental, vision, traditional medicine and the support staff as to what they want and need in their offices. This will be a great addition in St. Ignace for all members and their families.

A lot of criticism on social media about this board and all I can say at this time is we are coming together and working for all members. Some of the issues can't fully be divulged as there may be pending litigation or employment issues.

This leads to making up stories, gossip or hearsay which is not helping any of the situations.

The renovations to our casino properties are moving forward and at the shores casino our new carpeting is being installed by our own maintenance department and all the workers involved are doing a fabulous job.

From the customers comments so far they are very happy with what has been done and some stated its long overdue and I totally agree.

Our front-line workers are the backbone of this organization and deserve more recognition and pay than they receive, which this board is trying to rectify. I can't mention any names at this time but an incident happened at the Shores Casino where recently a maintenance worker collapsed and went into full cardiac arrest.

With the help of his coworkers and the security staff the coworker was revived by CPR, transported to hospital and is receiving cardiac testing and is expected to fully recover.

Because of these front-line workers and the excellent security manager who offers ongoing training to his officers, we have great outcomes like this. Outstanding job to all that were involved!

If you should have any questions or concerns I can be reached at sborowicz@saulttribe.net or (906)379-8511.

**Moving? Call
906-632-6398
to update your
address.**

Election reform needed to correct ongoing problems



**BETTY FREIHEIT,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

Hello tribal members,
Let me first begin by wishing everyone a Happy Easter and here's hoping for an early spring. As I write this, we just got two feet of snow. Nice April Fools' joke. But spring is on the way and we will soon have warmer weather to get together outdoors.

I wish I felt better about this election. I wish I could just say congratulations and move on. It would certainly make my life easier as this seems to be the popular sentiment. For some it is easy to simply attribute all the missteps to a rather new committee and claim no harm was done. But I cannot remain quiet as this would be a disservice to the tribal voters. I believe that ignoring what hap-

pened in this election would be wrong.

I do not believe this election should have been held given the historic missteps. I do not believe the election was legal. To claim otherwise would be turning my back on what I believe to be a corruption of the election process and violation of our laws. We needed to own these errors and oversights and cancel this election. Instead, a majority of the board chose to continue and to sweep it all under the rug. There has been too much of that in the history of our tribe.

The Election Ordinance mandates that the Election Committee post a Notice of Special Election within three days of the board issuing a notice of a vacancy. This is stated in Section 10.205-Election Announcement:

(1) Upon becoming aware of a vacancy of the Election Committee shall within three (3) business days prepare and post at each tribal office a Notice of Election which shall explain the purpose of the Special Advisory Election, give date of election, the manner by which the Vote is to be taken, the office to be filled, the procedures for the nomination of the Candidates, the time limit for each stage of the election procedure and the voting requirements for the elections.

The Election Committee DID NOT post the Notice of Election within the mandated time frame.

The tribal board should have stopped the election right there. There are no provisions in the Election Ordinance that I have found that gives the board or the Election Committee the authority to waive or extend this deadline. The deadline was missed...hard stop. This is the first strike and rationale for cancelling the special advisory as it was being conducted.

The next mishap came with the early mailing of the ballots two full weeks early and even before the digital copy of official Tribal Candidate Profiles were posted on the tribe's website. This is up to a whole month prior to when the hard copy of the tribal newspaper arrived in voters' homes. Think of it, one candidate had the benefit of her mailer arriving a week before the ballots and likely before she was even officially certified while her opponents did not have the benefit of their mailers before the ballots arrived because for the first time in the tribe's history, the ballots were mailed two weeks earlier than the official date voted on by the Election Committee.

This was a gross departure from all prior elections and it absolutely had a negative impact on all but one candidate. And even though conflicting reports emerged the early mailing was dismissed as a clerical error by the Election Committee with some reporting that the error occurred at the

hands of an employee. The board should not have accepted this and should have again cancelled the election. Further, when election complaints were filed for the mailing two weeks earlier than previously voted on by the Election Committee, the initial response dismissing the complaint came from the Election Committee.

Finally, on election night a member of the Election Committee who happens to be a candidate's sister was observed counting ballots. This is in violation of Election Ordinance 10.108-Tribal Election Committee which reads:

(3) If an Immediate Family Member of an Election Committee member files as a Candidate, that Committee member shall be disqualified from participating in any action of the Election Committee relating to the office for which the Immediate Family Member has filed.

On this basis, I filed an election contest. Several other tribal members filed as well. What is disheartening is that the Election Committee itself will be hearing and deciding on the merits of these contests. I believe this is a conflict of interest and again the tribal board should have intervened to appoint an impartial body. As a board, we are responsible for the conduct of the election and to ensure they comply with all acceptable practices and codes.

We cannot turn our backs. And we cannot pick and choose which codes we will follow. The election should be cancelled and no one seated under such circumstances.

No matter how these election contests are resolved, we simply cannot allow our elections to be subject to such mishaps and violations. As a board, we made a lot of talk about Election Code and Committee revisions. So far, nothing at all has happened except to contract out ballot mailings. That one minor change will not correct the ongoing problems of missing ballots and what seem to be arbitrary election violations for minor incidents accompanied by large fines. I am not faulting the individual committee members.

Our elections have simply grown too large and are too important to be conducted by a volunteer committee. We need a system where someone is accountable at all times for missing ballots and for conducting hearings and conducting investigations with all proper elements of due process and according to our tribal laws. Reform needs to be a priority.

Again, in closing and as always, take care of yourself and your family. Help your neighbor anytime you can and please take care of our elders.

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

Hear both sides of the story before making judgment



**MICHAEL MCKERCHIE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

I'm grateful for the last several years of helping tap trees, collecting sap, and making some delicious syrup down on Sugar Island. I especially like when my kids or any of the little ones help out — it's great to see them do the same things we did when we were young. And thank you to the master chef and the many others who help keep such a wonderful tradition alive. The results have been fantastic so far, and I'm optimistic of a great sugar bush season.

During this spring, many of our committees have been very active and meet regularly to discuss topics and with summer on the way — many events will start taking place again. Every so often, our tribe holds a Grand Assembly, and has chosen to do so in conjunction with our powwow. As this will be a very big event, I would like to thank our committees that are working on this. It's scheduled for June 29-30, then rolling into our powwow weekend June 30-July 2.

I would encourage members to buy tickets for Kewadin Casino

Sault's concert "Rez Comedy Tour" that same weekend. There are many activities and information booths being planned and it will have something for everyone. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Another active committee has been our Election Committee. I would also like to thank each member volunteering their time and energy to conduct our own elections. Our tribe does not have a two-party system of Democrats and Republicans, so often times the system itself gets over scrutinized. It's not an easy job and I thank you for stepping up. There has been a lot of online discussion regarding our past few elections, and as always, I urge

our membership to hear both sides of any story prior to making any judgment. I whole-heartily believe the majority of our membership just want to move on from the drama that has bogged down the tribe's progress. Hope we will be swearing in our newest leader soon.

With that being said, I will say any allegations made online are just that — allegations. Unfortunately, we live in a time where you can say almost anything online with little to no consequences. It doesn't have to be true, it doesn't have to be fact, and unfortunately many people will believe it. Our tribe has laws and we should allow the systems in place to address

any members concerns, contests, and complaints. Anyone making allegations online are welcome to address it using our system of laws. The board is not the interpreter of the law; we write and pass law. We've delegated the courts to interpret it and tribal police to enforce it.

There is very little stopping a board to do "whatever" they want in way of any meaningful separation of power. What little barriers we have are our laws. In order to break them or to do what they want, we (the board) would have to change those laws. And that is where the membership can hold elected leaders accountable. If we pass laws that give too much authority to the board, the

members can hold referendums to undo those laws if the membership chooses.

My hopes are that it doesn't come to that, and that the majority of this board wants to just move forward. Time will tell.

On a last note, I would like to send prayers to one of the elders that help keep many of our traditions alive and is always willing to help our community when in need — miigwech, Bud Biron, and I hope you get well soon.

As always, any member wishing to discuss issues, please contact me at (906) 440-7768.

Also, please consider joining one of our many committees and help us move forward in a good way.

MAT uses whole-patient approach to treat substance abuse



**ISAAC MCKECHNIE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

Recently, one of my best friends lost his child to drug addiction. Losing a child is heart-breaking but to lose your loved one to a drug overdose is just plain tragic. It was hard for me to communicate the right sympathy knowing that nothing will soothe my friend's pain. "I'm sorry for your loss," just isn't enough.

How does one begin to move forward after such a loss? As for my friend, I am not sure where he will find comfort, but hope he finds some in remembering the good times they shared together. For me, I will be submitting a resolution to hire a consultant to develop a plan for the tribe to implement a Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program that members can easily access. This type of treatment is long overdue and needs to be expedited so these types of tragedies don't continue to occur.

MAT is the use of medications, in combination with counseling and other therapeutic techniques, to provide a "whole-patient" approach to the treatment of substance use disorders. Medications relieve the withdrawal systems and psychological cravings that cause chemical imbalances in the body. Research has shown that when provided at the proper dose, medications used in MAT have

no adverse effects on a person's intelligence, mental capability or physical functioning.

At the end of March, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the over-the-counter, nonprescription, use of Narcan nasal spray, a brand name for naloxone. Naloxone is a medication that reverses the effects of opioid overdose. How can the tribe make Narcan available to members? This is a question that needs to be answered sooner than later so I will ask it of the tribal board and our health professionals.

Effectively addressing the opioid epidemic requires a collaborative approach by child welfare, law enforcement, court systems, substance use disorder treatment and mental health treatment, and healthcare providers. It is essential for all these professionals to work together to provide services in order to rid addiction from our community. A good plan will pro-

vide a hopeful pathway to recovery.

If you believe MAT and Narcan can play a positive part to address drug addiction in our community, please reach out to your board representative and ask them to support these two initiatives.

On a lighter note, maple syrup season is in full swing. Sugar Island sugarbushes are full of family and friends carrying on the tradition. Our family has tapped over 200 trees and we will be employing a new boiling pan for finishing this year. Wish us luck. Methods for making maple syrup certainly have changed during my lifetime but one thing that hasn't changed is how great it is to see everyone after a long winter.

"Owen-Strong"
Sincerely,
Isaac McKechnie, Unit 1
Director

imckechnie@saulttribe.net or
(906) 203-4787.

Working in the community and in the capitol



TYLER LAPLAUNT
DIRECTOR, UNIT V

Aanii, Boozhoo!!!

Let me start out by congratulating the Munising Mustangs boys basketball team as the MSHAA Division 4 State Champions! They brought home the first state title in boys basketball to Munising in 101 years. That is a heck of an accomplishment. The entire U.P. is proud of our Munising community. They showed us all that if you work as a team, you can defy all odds. This victory was an inspiration to everyone in our communities and a clear reminder that like the Munising Mustang Champions, we can and should work together as a tribe to do the same. Congratulations Munising!

Speaking of working together as a team, I also want to send a huge chi miigwech to Elder Committee members Vicki Walden and Greg Pond for reaching out and looking for assistance for the families that wouldn't be able to make the trip downstate. Unfortunately, we no longer have coach buses, but the Kewadin crew was able to pull together some community engagement funding to offset the cost of a family bus to get Munising families down to watch both the semi-final and championship game. Another great example of the community working together to pull out a win.

As I had mentioned in last month's report, I recently attended the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes (MAST) Impact week in Washington, D.C., with Chairman Lowes. MAST brings together the 34 tribes from across the Bemidji area to address areas of concern that impact all tribal nations. We had several presentations from different branches of government, elected leaders such as congressional representatives and U.S. senators from both sides of the aisle, both Republicans and Democrats, and innovative vendors to enhance our work back home.

As always, my focus going in was primarily on healthcare and expansion of services. I had and took advantage of an opportunity to address Indian Health Services Director Roselyn Tso. The two main areas of note are the fact that the Bemidji area, which Sault Tribe is a part of, is the lowest and has been historically the lowest funded IHS Area and permanent telehealth expansion.

Of 12 IHS regions, we rank twelfth at 38% level of need funding. That means that we are

either short of available services, or that if we meet the entire 100% level of need in our communities, 62% of the funding would either have to come from our own economic endeavors, or from third party billing. Our treaties were for healthcare in perpetuity; that means forever. Not at 5%, not at 38%, but 100%. We prepaid for these treaty rights with the blood of our ancestors and the ceding of over 4 million acres of land.

While we do not have a clear answer from Director Tso, she is the first director of IHS that said she would look into the history of the disparity of funding and get a clearer understanding to better even out the IHS units within her ability. It would be amazing if this was followed through, and I'll be here for the next three years making sure that they are held accountable to this direction. It's something that I fought for before I became a tribal leader and something I will be relentless on as your representative. Improving IHS will improve the quality of lives for all of our people, not just Sault Tribe.

How can you help? Right now, if you have premium insurance, Medicare, or Medicaid and you utilize any of our services within Sault Tribe Health Division, or anywhere for that matter, please let the clinic know this and give them a copy of your insurance. You will not be charged a co-pay and the third-party insurance reimbursement helps offset the cost to our IHS services, thus, further expanding the services we will be able to provide. Many people carry insurance and don't think about this because it isn't required. You're right, it isn't required, but it does no harm to you and only enhances the services that we can offer to our fellow citizens.

Which brings me to my second point, expansion of telehealth. Telehealth became widely used during the pandemic and something that we didn't focus on as a tribe until I took office. We are gradually delving into telehealth, but we can do so much more for so many more members. Again, the reluctance is cost and access. I brought up the need to build in permanent telehealth expansion not only across government agencies, but more specifically on the IHS side. By building this in to the model, we could one day see members for basic services and needs beyond the fake lines drawn on a map.

My ultimate vision and goal would be to expand health services beyond the seven counties, starting with all of Michigan with telehealth. We would need to start with Michigan because there are licensure requirements in each state for physicians to practice and this alone would be a huge undertaking. We still wouldn't be able to cover all specialty visits with telehealth. However, primary care and preventative visits can greatly improve the overall health and well-being of an individual and that alone is enough in my eyes.

Can we accomplish this as a



Above, Chairman Austin Lowes and Vice Chairman Tyler LaPlaunt (L-R) visiting our representatives on the Hill. Below, IHS Director Roselyn Tso and LaPlaunt (L-R) at the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes in D.C.



tribe? I believe we can begin to gradually expand, but we need the buy-in from tribal leadership and the Health Division to pilot a site outside of our area to test the waters. This would be a huge feat, and likely take years to accomplish. Every huge goal starts with a single step. I'd like to see us take that first step in the next year or so. It's okay to stumble, and even to fall. You'll never get anywhere if you don't try. I'd rather fall forward into something that looks different than to never have moved at all.

Back to MAST Impact. After our conference agenda, Chairman Lowes and I also made several individual Hill visits to Senators Stabenow, Peters, and Tester, along with a visit to Congressman Bergman. Our main focus was on the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and to request support from our representatives. If the Supreme Court overturns ICWA, the request is legislative action to reaffirm. The decision on this will likely be made around June. Let's all put our asemaa down in prayer that ICWA is upheld.

In addition to ICWA and healthcare, we also discussed the Farm Bill with each of our repre-

sentatives. As we slowly begin to delve into food sovereignty, we want to ensure that tribal rights are upheld with the passing of the Farm Bill that would better enhance our food programming and protect our food sovereignty rights. All in all, the days at MAST were long and well spent and I look forward to continuing this level of advocacy in the days and months to come.

Last month, I had also mentioned that we will be receiving a Juul settlement and that is was on the agenda to put directly into the Land Claims (Elders) Fund. That resolution did pass and the entire settlement, which we be around \$2.5 million, will be put into that fund to collect interest.

Again, I want to point out that if we continue to pay out 100% of the interest earned, that fund will never increase on its own and checks will continue to stagnate and decrease with an ever-increasing elder population. I still strongly suggest that we decrease the payout 5-10% so that the fund can grow incrementally over time. That would still pay 90-95% of the total interest earned while we would compound interest every single year.

Had this been done 20 years ago, we'd all be a lot better off right now. It just doesn't make sense to pay 100% of interest earned and expect a larger check. I'm not promising anything but the most basic investment strategy. Even 1% would benefit future generations. "A society grows great when old men plant trees in whose shade they shall never sit." — Greek Proverb.

Unit 5, we are making strong progress toward the Marquette Community Center. We finally identified a space that would meet our needs and are just awaiting a vote of approval from the board on April 4. It needs full approval from the board because I had to amend the original budget to include the purchase and rehab of the facility. With the approval to move forward, we would have a solid facility in Marquette where we could gather instead of constantly needing to rent space. It's a space that would need extensive remodeling, but I believe we could be into part of it and make it useable well before the end of the year.

If this passes, all attention will be on the housing project in Munising. Luckily, I've sat and watched the other unit's ARPA projects, and there have been a ton of lessons learned. I'm confident that we can get some solid mixed housing in the Munising Area. This, however, would require me to rescind the resolution for the Munising Community Center. I brought this up to the Munising Elder Committee and they agreed that housing is needed more in Munising than a second Community Center space.

I'm always happy to listen to suggestions from anyone, so feel free to reach out to me if you have any other recommendations. I've taken quite a few phone calls and have attended all but one elder meeting since taking office. ARPA funding is limited and restricted and I'm just trying to make the best long-term sustainable decisions for our communities and our tribe based on the input I received from Unit V citizens.

Hopefully, spring will have arrived in the U.P. by the time you read this. Take care and get outside and enjoy the outdoors. Spring is a time of renewal and I'll remind you that it's a great time to fast with intent and prayer. If you are in need of a spirit name or want to get involved with our Traditional Medicine program, please reach out to them at (906) 632-0236. They can tell you when and where the traditional healers will be and help you get scheduled. If you haven't worked with Traditional Medicine before, it can be intimidating. I promise you; the first step is always the hardest. Get on the phone and schedule a visit.

Chi Miigwech,
Tyler Migizii Migwan
LaPlaunt
Vice-Chairman, Unit V
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Election Code and process need correction



ROBERT MCRORIE
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Aaniin, boozhoo, to all of my fellow members of our sovereign nation of Sault Tribe. I hope my report finds you and your families well, in both health and spirit. It is exciting to welcome the new life and feeling of renewal that spring brings to us. There are many new initiatives and projects moving forward within our tribe and programs within our departments. I am excited to discuss a few within this report.

Although, I would love to bring only the best of news to the members, I cannot ignore that many of our systems of government provide a platform to foster clear acts of corruption. I cannot pretend that we have a fair and properly functioning system of government, specifically within our Election Code and process. This must be corrected and those who refuse to take corrective action must also assume the role as being part of the problem, rather than the solution they promised to be in their campaigns.

Let me be very clear that this is not an attack on any one candidate, as I feel I can work with any of the three. This is about correcting

a process that has once again been ignored and fosters acts of corruption. I was firmly against the most recent election for the vacant Unit I seat. In fact, I voted, "NO" to declaring the seat vacant at the Dec. 20 board meeting, because I recognized that there must be changes to the Election Code and process.

At this time, I will insert an excerpt from my last report to reiterate my stance on the most recent Special Election.

"On Dec. 20, 2022, the board of directors voted to declare the Unit I board seat vacant, that was held by now sitting Chairman Lowes. This declaration of vacancy triggered a special advisory election to take place. During the Dec. 20, 2022, board meeting, I voted, "NO" to declaring the seat vacant. The reason I voted no is because I felt, and still feel, that we have a broken election process. I voted no because it was, and still is, my position that we must address the process in which our elections are conducted. Being a very close-knit tribal community with strongly polarizing political views, it is my opinion that it is impossible to keep political agendas out of the election process in an unbiased manner. As I have stated for many years, I do believe we need to move towards contracting a professional outside firm to conduct our election processes. I also believe all election complaints should be handled through the court system under the direction of qualified judicial officials. Although I voted, "no" to declare the seat vacant, I was outvoted and the seat was declared vacant and the process to begin a special advisory election was initiated. Unfortunately, the very reason I voted no, a broken election process, came to fruition. The Election Committee reported

a "clerical mistake" that resulted in ballots being mailed to members weeks prior to the original scheduled mailing date. This mistake creates a very unfair election process as candidates were not aware there would be an early mailing of the ballots. I do not and will not support unfair election processes within our sovereign nation; therefore, at the March 7, 2023, board of director's meeting, I will be supporting resolutions to cancel the special advisory election and keep the Unit I seat vacant until the next scheduled general election of 2024. My hope is that, in the meantime, a board majority will take corrective action to fix the long-standing election process issues."

As I write to you, the members, now in April 2023, I must sadly report that no corrective action was taken by the board of directors on March 7, 2023, regarding this election. When the resolutions to take corrective action regarding the election came up on the meeting agenda, I motioned to put them on the table for a vote. There was no second to my motion and the resolutions died for lack of support. This inaction failed our membership. Our membership deserves the right to know that the election process of their sovereign nation is conducted in a fair unbiased manner and is free from the grasp of corrupt acts. In my opinion, this election should not have taken place until the process was fixed, and it certainly should have been canceled after the first breach of code.

As a governing body, we must do better by our people. Director LaPlaut has committed to cosponsoring a resolution to move our tribe in the direction of contracting with a professional third party firm to conduct our elections in a fair unbiased manner. This is some-

thing I have supported for many years and will gladly cosponsor as well.

On to brighter news. We had a productive meeting with the chief judge of Sault Tribe regarding the possibility of future code changes that would grant our court's jurisdiction to conduct hearings and render decisions in child custody cases involving Sault Tribe children. I believe this is very important because I do not believe that courts of other governments should be determining the best interest of our nation's children. This is an issue that I will continue to cover and advocate for. In the coming months, I will be requesting code reviews and suggestions from the court to code revisions that will grant this jurisdiction to the Sault Tribe court system.

I have placed, "Funding UNITY Conference" on the next board of directors workshop agenda. The United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY) Conference is a national organization of all federally recognized tribe's youth councils. At this conference, the youth councils receive high quality leadership training that empowers them to make positive differences within their communities. This year's conference is being held in Washington, D.C., June 28 - July 4. I have placed this on the workshop agenda to brainstorm funding options to send each of our youth councils to this conference as I feel it is extremely important to provide our youth with opportunities to develop their leadership skills. My goal is to be able to send each of our councils, from all units, to the 2023 UNITY Conference.

I will be placing, "Environmental Protection Committee" on another board workshop agenda this month. I

have been contacted by multiple members who have concerns about how our tribe is failing to do all we can to protect Aki (Mother Earth). This is something I am also very passionate about. My idea is to form a committee comprised of Sault Tribe members who are passionate about protecting the environment, to serve in an advisory capacity to the board of directors. This committee will be tasked to advise the board where policy or legislative changes can be made to establish governmental and enterprise processes that protect the environment, such as recycling, Line 5 issues, and Sault Tribe affiliates that work with companies that do business with organizations that pose a major threat to the ecosystems our people and ancestors have called home for thousands of years. It is time to make a statement and stand firm in our inherent role of protectors of Mother Earth. We must send the message, "If your company does business with corporations that endanger the environment, we will cut all ties." Above all things, we must fight for our future generations as our ancestors did for us. Enough is enough.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions or ideas you may have to advance our great Sault Tribe nation, (906) 379-8068.

I wish you all the very best, and I hope you and your family enjoy yet another month of health and happiness. Remember to think big and be courageous in chasing all of your dreams and goals. You have the strength of an entire tribe and the prayers of our ancestors that came before you. As Anishinaabek, we are capable of anything we set our heart and minds to.

Miigwech,
Director McRorie

Director Sorenson reports on elections issues



BRIDGETT SORENSON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III

At the time of this report the unofficial election results for the Unit I seat are Joanne Carr, 1,032, Sheila Berger, 653, and Nichole Causley, 646. I would have thought Joanne would have been sworn in by now. There is a three-day period to contest but it was not a close race. Some people (even board members) have wanted to stop the election because the ballots went out early. I think that is ludicrous; the date to be sent is a deadline and the deadline was met. The other two candidates have run before so it is not like people didn't know anything about them.

In the 2022 election, when our old board was talking about the election, the new board voted to publish the workshop but NOT in its entirety. There were real issues

to stop that election, which some complaints still to this day have not been resolved. We had candidates not fill out their financial reports, not include everything, go over the contribution limit, not showing up for hearings with the Election Committee, etc. The Election Committee was dragged through the mud and many resigned. The new board added some new people and they are still not happy with the Election Committee. I heard more are resigning and some board members want to outsource the committee. If people respected the committee and let them do their job without being treated like crap, we probably wouldn't be in this situation with new members and no chairperson since the last election.

I would have to believe two of the hardest committees to volunteer on would be the Election Committee and Child Welfare Committee. The Child Welfare Committee is strictly confidential and the hardest part would probably be the heartache for the children.

The Election Committee are mostly team members who constantly have to worry about their jobs. Nobody should have to worry about their job for serving as a volunteer on a committee for making decisions they think are right. I may not always agree with the decisions of the committee, but I respect the position and thank you all past and present members

for putting in your time that could have been spent in many other ways to serve your tribe!

With the current situation of the looming \$88 million lawsuit with the developers, the board and our attorneys and executives are meeting frequently to take all necessary precautions to weather the storm. I am not at liberty to discuss much, but I do want to communicate that we are taking this very seriously and doing everything we can do to succeed. Our legal staff has been working hard and I have faith they will guide us through this awful time. Regardless of the outcome, we will still be a tribe and will survive.

At the March 7 board meeting, the board voted to put the money the tribe received in the Juul lawsuit (a joint lawsuit over the use of vapes) in the Land Claims Fund (Elder fund). We will continue to look for other revenue streams to continue to add to the fund.

With the summer season upon us, we are trying to recruit and retain staff as well as every other organization and business. We are trying to fix wage grid issues, have approved a Remote Work Policy, allowing flexible scheduling and promotions. We really need to do a better job on advertising our complete benefit package. The company spends about \$20,000 per team member on their insurance. I think our insurance is pretty darn good compared to others, especially our low deductibles. Our longevity recognition

lunches are back and will be taking place on May 3.

The Grand Assembly is being planned to start on June 28 leading up to the Sault powwow. It has been many years since the tribe has hosted a grand assembly. I had actually wanted to schedule it down at the New Boston property to show people it is our property and we are not going anywhere. I still hope that we either plan a powwow or another event at the site to gather with members downstate and make some use of the property.

I will be traveling to Washington, D.C. on April 10, for my first in person meeting with HUD TIAC. Tribal leaders are getting together on the 11th to prepare to meet with all staff on the 12th and 13th. I am looking forward to serving in this capacity. I will be returning the next week to the Annual Travois Indian Country Affordable Housing and Economic Development Conference. As the chair of the Housing Commission, I want to be as educated as possible to help our tribe in pursuing all housing opportunities as well as new economic projects.

With these commitments, I will not be at our Unit III Elder meeting on April 17, the Elder meeting on April 13 or the Elder Advisory meeting on April 21. I do apologize for not being in attendance but I am always available for calls, text, emails, etc. I will be trying to be on Zoom for the tribal board

meeting on April 18.

I would like to remind everyone of the Youth Development Fund for kids in the service area for help with senior pictures, driving lessons, sport activities, camps, etc. The application is on our website under Membership Services, Education and then on the left side under menu. This is up to \$150 once per year.

I was sorry to see Angie O'Rourke Gilmore leave our ACFS department in St. Ignace. She was a great help to our people for many years and I hope we can find someone with the same compassion. Good Luck on your new job, Ang!

The detention center has been struggling in the last few years with losing staff and following state regulations. We will be working on getting licensed through the feds. Keith Frosland has been hired as the new Facility Manager. Keith has worked for many years at Malcolm School in the Soo. I think Keith will do a great job getting the facility to where it needs to be. Thank you to all the staff that have been weathering the storm lately.

The construction projects at the Soo Locks have been taking some of our staff. This may affect some of our housing projects if we continue to struggle with shortages.

As always, any questions or concerns, I can be reached at (906) 430-0536, bsorenson@saulttribe.com or bridgett91@yahoo.com.

Part alga, part fungus, lichens are weird and cool

By BILL COOK

Organisms growing on trees concern some folks, or sometimes, engender curiosity. Typically, the first reaction is that they're "bad" for the tree. Not usually so.

"Hey, what's that green fungus growing on my tree?" "Is my tree sick?" "How do I get rid of that stuff?"

There are many life forms that inhabit tree bark, not to mention all the other parts of a tree. For example, oaks can host hundreds of species from many taxa. Most of them are harmless to the tree.

However, those queries about "green stuff" or "fungus" that I commonly receive generally refer to lichens. Lichens are good. Lichens are cool. Lichens are weird.

In a nutshell, a lichen sports a cooperative relationship between a fungus and an alga, or more than one alga species. It's a form of "symbiosis." Each species has special adaptive characteristics that, together, defy classification.

If one has to make a rule (often broken), the fungus partner provides shelter and a moist micro-habitat and the algae photosynthesize and share the food.

The most common in our region, perhaps, is a "green shield" lichen, usually a circular or oval colony seen on tree trunks, rocks, and other surfaces. Other common lichens include "old man's beard," "reindeer moss (lichen)," and "British sol-

dier." But, there are many others, often with impressive shapes and colors.

Biologists sometimes group lichen appearance into three overall categories; crustose, fruticose, and foliose. Crustose lichens are, well, sort of crusty. They adhere closely to whatever they're growing upon. Foliose lichens appear leafy and grow in moister micro-habitats, such as next to shady waterfalls. The fruticose lichens have lots of three-dimensional forms, such a caribou lichen or old man's beard. There are other descriptors for lichens as well.

Fungi, by themselves, have long presented classification challenges. Lichens are even more mysterious. The Latin, or scientific, names change regularly and are labeled after the fungal partner. Lichen lifecycles are frequently complex, highly varied, and offer plenty of opportunities for new discovery.

Humans like to classify living things but lichens give us a run for our money. As technology advances, we can see microscopic and genetic characteristics, which tend to be more consistent than the older eyeballing techniques that have historically been employed. So, what at one time, appeared to be two different lichens are really the same species. And, so on.

Seeing how lichens are a combination of algae and fungi, they have equally bizarre reproductive methodologies. Asexual

strategies include something as simple as a broken piece forming a new colony. Sexual reproduction involves the recombination of chromosomes that form spores, but lichens can have some complicated ways of doing all this.

An entire set of jargon, or language, is applied to describing lichens and their lifecycles. The words would be handy when playing Scrabble.

All this said, avoiding most of the biology, do lichens hurt trees? No. Lichens simply use the bark as a substrate upon which to grow. They do not invade the living tree tissues that lie under the bark.

Lichens are actually a fair barometer of atmospheric health. They tend not to grow in areas with air pollution. That does not necessarily mean that a lack of lichens on your backyard trees spells polluted air. Rather, when present, lichens suggest good clean air.

More important, I suggest, is the visual quality of lichens. There are so many shapes and colors, including neon greens, yellows, and oranges. They can look like the surface of burnt toast, or mini trees, or a lettuce salad. Lichens also tend to be slow-growing. So, if you see them, try not to scrape them off the tree or trample a colony on the ground.

With a bit of observation, you might find that you "lichen" them.

Bill Cook is a retired MSU Extension Forester/Biologist.



Photo by Mihnea Stanciu

Reindeer lichen is a familiar sight in local forests.



Photo by Bernd Haynold

Old Man's Beard Lichen growing on a tree.

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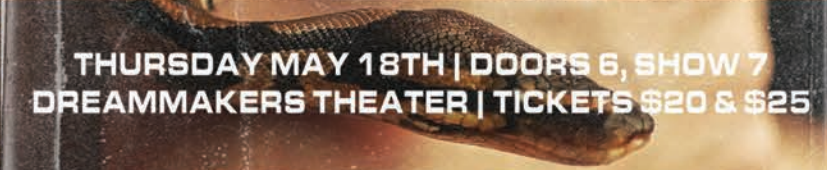
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